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*The*  
EASY REFERENCE  
SCRAP BOOK

*of*

*Letters re regarding my retirement*

*Robert E. Speer*

WORLD WIDE PUBLISHING COMPANY

INC.

NEW YORK



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WORLD WIDE PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.  
NEW YORK

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Copy Action of Synod held at Atlantic City, Oct. 20, 1936

Second: That we record our sincere appreciation of the presence of Dr. Robert E. Speer in this meeting of our Synod, which is his Synod; that we express to him our profound gratitude for his informing, stimulating and heartening message delivered this morning; that we rejoice in the marvelous service rendered to Christ and the Church and to those for whom Christ also died, in all the world, during the forty-six years of his conspicuous and God-honored leadership as Secretary of our Board of Foreign Missions; that we convey to Dr. Speer the assurance that in more than abundant measure we share the respect and love in which he is enshrined in the hearts of the people of the Church of Christ throughout the world; and that we pledge our prayers for God's richest and choicest blessings upon him during the many more years we crave for his continued leadership of the forces dedicated to the evangelization of the world.

Board minutes, Jan  
Action of Foreign Missions Conf. Atlantic City Jan 4-6, '37

In view of the long and formative relation of the Board's Senior Secretary with the Foreign Missions Conference, it was voted to make permanent record of the following resolution which the recent Conference adopted by a spontaneous, rising vote:

"The Conference recorded peculiar indebtedness to Dr. Robert E. Speer who as chairman has wisely guided our sessions and as counsellor has illumined and enriched our minds and hearts. It is hoped that the Chairman's notable address will be made available for wide use at home and abroad. For nearly half a century of his selfless service and of his fearless and unflinching championship of the foreign missionary cause, the Conference devoutly thanks God and earnestly prays that Dr. Speer will long continue to cooperate in the ongoing Christian world movement. To a devoted friend, a faithful leader, a true comrade of the Cross, we one and all give our love and enduring esteem."

## DR. SPEER HONORED FOR MISSION WORK

### West End Presbyterian Pays Tribute to the Retiring Secretary of Board

Dr. Robert E. Speer, who will retire this Summer as secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, was honored yesterday by the congregation of the West End Presbyterian Church, Amsterdam Avenue and 105th Street.

Dr. Speer received a leather-bound, engraved message of appreciation by the Rev. Dr. A. Edwin Keigwin in behalf of the Session of West End Presbyterian Church.

The presentation was "in grateful recognition of Dr. Speer's unflagging zeal and unremitting labors to make the Lord Jesus Christ known and loved throughout the whole wide world."

Dr. Speer, who has served forty-four years with the Board of Foreign Missions, will be automatically retired as a result of an age-limit ruling. He will become 70 years old on Sept. 10.

He remarked on the great progress made during his half-century of missionary work in converting the peoples of the Orient, and predicted:

"There will come a time when the non-Christian religions of the world will die and be replaced by Christianity just as the religions of Greece and Rome.

"At present we are far, far away from converting the world. We are far away from evangelizing the world. But then we have not evangelized or converted our own country yet. New York is still far from a Christian city and America is still far from a Christian country."

The Presbyterian Church has succeeded, he continued, not only in winning believers to Christianity, but in reshaping the various philosophies and religions of the Orient, and in safe-guarding the treasures of the East.

"When I stop to think," Dr. Speer declared, "that all over the world there are Christians just as consecrated and just as loyal to Jesus Christ as we are, and I contrast this with the time when to be a Christian in Japan was a great crime, I begin to think that spreading the Gospel has proved a worth-while thing."

30

## Dr. R. E. Speer To Quit Church Missions Office

### Presbyterian Senior Secretary of Foreign Board Will Retire in Summer

### Gets Appreciation Here

### West End Congregation's Session Lauds Work

The Rev. Dr. Robert Elliott Speer, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, one of the church's leading religious statesmen, is resigning next summer as senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, it was disclosed yesterday. Dr. Speer, who was born in Huntington, Pa., on September 10, 1867, will be retired under the church's rules prohibiting service of an official after he reaches the age of seventy.

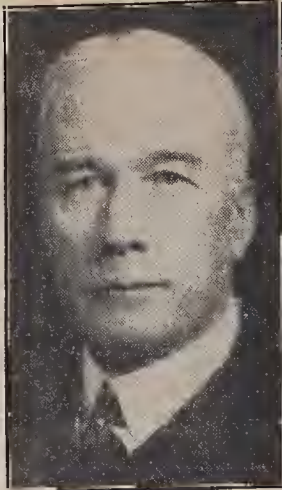
Dr. Speer's retirement became known yesterday morning when he received from the session of the West End Presbyterian Church, Amsterdam Avenue and 105th Street, an appreciation of his forty-six-year tenure of office as secretary of the foreign mission board, one of the most important posts in the Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. A. Edwin Keigwin, pastor of the West End Presbyterian Church, announced the presentation of the appreciation at the close of his morning sermon.

The appreciation, engrossed and bound in leather, recognized Dr. Speer's "unflagging zeal and unremitting labors to make the Lord Jesus Christ known and beloved throughout the world." "It is the further wish of the session," the appreciation continued, "to testify that our world vision has broadened, our desire to spread Christ's gospel has deepened, and our souls have grown under Dr. Speer's frequent pulpit ministrations in this church."

The appreciation was approved by the session, of which Harry S. Kerr is clerk, on February 17. The session includes the congregation and official boards of the West End Church.

Dr. Speer was graduated from Princeton University in 1889 and attended the Princeton Theological Seminary. He has visited Christian missions in Persia, India, China, Japan, South America, the Philippines and Siam. The Board of Foreign Missions during Dr. Speer's administration has been the focus of the attack led by fundamentalists, headed by the late Rev. Dr. J. Gresham Machen, of the Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, but the modernist wing of the church has repeatedly asserted its confidence in Dr. Speer. He was moderator of the Presbyterian Church in 1927 and is a former president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. His home is at 24 Gramercy Park.

Retiring From Mission Post



Dr. Robert E. Speer

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1937 MAR 12 PM 3 16

ROBERT E SPEER, DD=

156 FIFTH AVE= 12 1937.

*7ms*

TRUSTEES OF CLIFTONSPRINGS SANITARIUM MEETING TODAY REGRET THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR DEAR FRIEND AND FELLOW MEMBER ROBERT ELLIOT SPEER AND WISH FOR HIM MANY YEARS OF HAPPINESS AND SERVICE TO THE WORLD YOUR FELLOWSHIP WILL ALWAYS CONTINUE AS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL=

HENRY O PALMER SECRETARY.

"COPPERHEAD DEN"  
MINISINK FORD  
SULLIVAN COUNTY  
NEW YORK

RM

31-131

Dear Dr. Speer,

I feel the same way about you and the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions as I do Chief Justice Hughes and the Supreme Court. You both have done, are doing and for many years to come can continue to do a great and valuable service in your present respective callings.

It did my heart good to see your picture in yesterday's Herald Tribune. I shall keep it.

You may be interested to know that of all the addresses I heard at Hatchless School, yours alone has stood with me, especially the one you delivered at St. Luke's meeting, about 1907.

Very Sincerely  
Richard C. Morrill

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MISS HOLLIS W. HERING, M.A., Librarian

January 14, 1937

Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

It is with very real regret that we have come to the end of your period of chairmanship of the Missionary Research Library. During these years we have felt unceasingly that we had your deep interest and your strong and purposeful support. I can think of nothing that you might have done for us or in our behalf that you have not done. During this period when adjustments in our work have been both inescapable and difficult it has been a comfort to carry on under your sympathetic and solicitous chairmanship.

Apart from and back of your relationship and ours to the Missionary Research Library, the fact of your approaching retirement from active administrative work brings to me personally a sense of real regret. Forty-five years ago I had as a room-mate one who had gone as a delegate from Northwestern University Preparatory School to the Student Volunteer Movement Convention of 1891. I met Dr. Mott at Lake Geneva in the summer of 1892 and my room-mate about that time set his heart on my going to the Detroit Student Volunteer Movement Convention of 1894 - "to hear Robert Speer speak." There I not only heard you, but I heard and met Harlan Beach, and also Willard Lyon. How little I dreamed that I should in later years travel around the world with Dr. Mott as his research secretary when he was organizing missionary councils in Asia, that I should edit world atlases with Harlan Beach, that I should work in a missionary research library under the chairmanship first of John R. Mott and later of Robert Speer, that I should marry the sister of D. Willard Lyon, and that one of my chums, who with me attended the Detroit Convention and there signed a declaration card, would later become missionary bishop for Africa (John M. Springer). Many of the non-Methodists you named in your Asbury Park valedictory I too have known, as well as the elder Appenzeller, Kim Chang Sik (first Methodist convert in Korea), Bishop William Taylor, who was Bishop Hartzell's predecessor, Bishop James M. Thoburn and Isabella Thoburn, and many others - of whom the world was not worthy. Also a few stalwarts whose saintliness, be it said, sometimes was a bit obscured.

So the panorama passes on. All joy to you in the years that remain. Our abiding gratitude to you for your helpfulness! And may the unfolding years bring each day new opportunities for high service until the summons comes.

Most cordially yours,

Charles H. Fahs

111 <sup>arrived</sup> South 5<sup>th</sup> St., Sterling

R. D. 5, BOX 62.

HOLTON, KANSAS.

111 307

Jan. 25, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer:—

— Saturday afternoon  
Walter Van Kirk told of the  
Foreign Missions Conference  
and of the recognition  
service held for you —  
and I wished I could have  
been there to join with  
your many friends in  
doing you honor. I  
want to tell you now,  
before I am a day older,  
of the inspiration you  
have been to me all my  
life, since I became  
interested in the work  
of Christ's Kingdom.

I thank you with all  
my heart. May God  
spare your life for  
as many years as  
you wish to live, for  
I cannot think of  
the Church of Jesus Christ  
here on earth without  
you. I cannot imagine  
you as "retired", but I  
hear you are to join  
our ranks.

God bless you, truly,

Sincerely yours

Anna A. Milligan

Speer

1:1936

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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AND  
THE PUNJAB MISSION  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

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LAHORE, INDIA.

December 16, 1936.

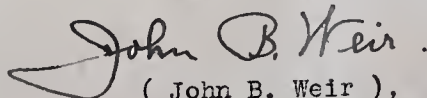
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, U.S.A.

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

It hardly seems possible that the Punjab Mission before it meets again will be faced with the dire necessity of carrying on without your immediate guidance, and yet the calendar and Church Rules indicate that such will be the case. Much was said at the meeting of the Mission a few weeks ago of the heavy loss that is to be ours. Words cannot adequately represent that loss nor the deep love and affection with which you are held by us all. In an attempt somewhat to represent what is in our hearts, the Mission has instructed me to send to you the following resolution:

"36176 - The Punjab Mission extends to Dr. Robert E. Speer and Mrs. Speer affectionate greetings upon the occasion of his coming retirement, which is to take place during the next year. We find it hard to visualize getting along without our Secretary, who has been associated with us as long as any of us can remember. It has been an honour to belong to Dr. Speer's inner circle. His clear understanding and his open kindness have cheered us through the years. Dr. Speer's outstanding capabilities and achievements in the missionary enterprise are well known in all missions and denominations throughout the world. We join with other Christians everywhere in taking justified pride therein. There is in addition, however, a special sense of regret on the part of this Mission that our long and happy official relationship with the distinguished Senior Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions must of necessity now come to a close. We shall retain him in high personal regard, and we pray that he may continue to be used in an eminent manner and in intimate touch with the work to which he and we have dedicated all of life."

Ever affectionately yours,



( John B. Weir ),  
Secretary, Punjab Mission  
of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S.A.



Leslie B. Moss

R. E. Speer

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JAN 20 1937

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January 14, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer

I want to express my personal sense of satisfaction in your services as chairman of the Foreign Missions Conference at the session this last week. It was a delight to have you in this capacity and I know that the members of the Conference were deeply appreciative not only of your service but of the address which you made on Wednesday evening and the somewhat more incidental remarks that you made at several points in the program.

Personally, I deeply regret the fact that your service as a member of this interdenominational body is coming so close to a termination. You have given so much of leadership and inspiration in the years that have passed and there seems to be no one who can provide this in any measure or degree to which you have done.

With warmest personal regards and an expression of appreciation for all your courtesy and forbearance, I am

Faithfully yours  
  
Leslie B. Moss

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President, Villanova College



January 26, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary  
The Board of Foreign Missions of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

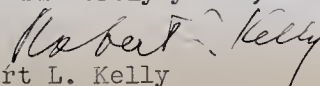
Just at present the college executives and professors who have been reported to me as among those men to be in Japan next summer are not the type I would suggest for religious addresses before the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries. If others are reported to me, I shall be glad to pass the word on to you.

I appreciate your word with reference to my resignation as Executive Secretary of the Association of American Colleges. I really resigned not because I felt the duties too exacting but because a good many of the colleges have a retirement policy which calls for the retirement of members of their faculties at ages between 65 and 70. There was no moral, legal, or physical reason for my retirement at this time, but I felt that on the whole I should attempt to set a good example.

Fortunately, the Carnegie Corporation has made a grant so that I may carry on some writing during the next two years, and I hope also to do some traveling, probably to the Orient.

I am interested in your announcement that you are planning to leave your present work next summer. Perhaps you will not mind my telling you that for many years, indeed since I was an undergraduate college student, I have looked upon you as one of the bulwarks of the Christian life in America and in the world, and I still so think of you.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Robert L. Kelly

THE GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

REV. FRANK FITT, MINISTER

16 LAKE SHORE ROAD

GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN

*J.F.*

February sixth, 1937

My dear Doctor Speer:-

Last night, sitting in the second row from the front, it meant a great deal to see and hear you again as you laid before us the age-long challenge. Silently I gave thanks for your witness across the years. It was in 1905, when I was fifteen years of age, that I heard you the first time, and in the years since then there has never been a lengthy period when I have not been privileged to hear your voice and feel the power of your faith. Always this has been to my own strengthening. From Northfield days, before college and during college, at Union Seminary, while I was a home missionary, at Chicago when I served a suburban parish and now during the years here I have never failed to be present when you came. There must be many hundreds of ministers and thousands of laity who have had just such a sense of loyalty towards you and what you stand for in the Gospel of our Lord. Now in this final year of your official association with the Board as secretary - though not, I hope, your final year of official association in other relationships - I want to express my gratitude and utter the prayer that in the years that remain you may mount in the sense of blessing and usefulness to God and to the cause to which you have given the major years of your experience.

Cordially and Gratefully Yours,

*Frank Fitt*

E. Speer

137

*John R Todd*

ME

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NEW YORK

March 1st, 1937

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COLUMBUS 5-7733

My dear Bobbie:

For you to retire because of age seems to me absurd.

You may not want to chase around as much as you did, nor climb mountains as high as you used to. You may not even want to work as many days in the year, nor as many hours per day, but if that fine head of yours isn't better today than it ever was, I am no guesser.

Your leaving the Board must in no sense be a quitting. It is leaving one important job for something far more important where your vast experience and high ideals will be of greater service to the whole world than the magnificent service you have already rendered.

Very sincerely yours,

*John R Todd*

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

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FEB 8 - 1937

*Centennial Council*

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Board of Foreign Missions,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:- First, my little personal gift to the good cause of For. Missions as carried on by our Board. I hope, during the year, to be able to add something extra for the Centennial.

Second, my hearty congratulations to you on your personal share during almost one half of the century of the work of the Board. As to me personally, so to thousands of others, you have been a constant inspiration in this work, and the influence of your consecrated life has gone out to untold numbers and has enriched the cause of Christian missions for all time to come. I want to give this little testimony to you while you can still read it yourself, but with the earnest hope that the Giver of life may give you a good many more years of service and rest, for rest alone would not be what you would enjoy.

Third, as I am again at the Seminary, now [as prof. of Church History, which includes Christian Missions, I need your advice on suitable books for the class. I have, of course, all or most of the older standard books, English and German, but feel something more up to our present situation is needed. MISSIONS TOMORROW by Latourette looks like a usable handbook if supplemented by extensive outside reading. Then the series of booklets--AND THEY WENT FORTH, of which I have received the first, might be useful as kind of snapshot pictures. I think I shall order enough for the class as soon as they have registered. As to our own work, ONE HUNDRED YEARS, by Dr. A. J. Brown, seems indispensable both for the Seminary library and for myself. But \$8.00 is a steep hurdle. Wonder if the publishers would consider the Prof. of Missions competent to review the book and thus get at least ONE copy free, the other we could manage to buy. Kindly see what you can do. Then also I would like to have a good large missionary map of the world, with special reference to our Presb. Missions. I have had such maps in former years, both in my class room and later in the First Presb. Church of Dubuque, when its pastor, but I feel the need of a more up-to-date map, as the World War has shattered a lot of good geography. No doubt you can help me to find the right one for my use and I will appreciate any suggestions you can give.

Finally, if you can at times keep in touch with our dear son, Dr. Paul Julius Laube, who is now doing his internship in Bellevue Hospital, I know he will appreciate it. In the BIG city and in the materialistic environments of a great hospital, the missionary ideals may not get proper nourishment, and I trust someone in the Board will try to keep in touch with him and other candidates in and about the City. I trust all this is not burdensome to you and that you can delegate most of it to some members of your staff.

Very faithfully yours,

*W. C. Laube*

*Also Chairman of T. W. Miss. Com. in Presb. + Synod for more than 25 yrs.*

George S. ...  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>

E. F. ...

MERRILLTON  
NEWPORT  
RHODE ISLAND

MS

My dear Robie,

In the N. Y. Herald the  
other day I read of your intended  
Resignation. Although you will miss  
your work terribly at first, you will,  
I am sure, continue to be busy -  
I will enjoy no doubt your leisure (if  
that word can be applied to it) - You  
dear boy, all these years I have loved  
you & taken a keen interest in your  
doings. You have been a wonder & a  
great incentive to younger men - You  
will never know how much you  
have been in my thoughts! Where  
are you to live? & can I come &  
see you sometimes? I have not  
been in good health but am better

now & I must not complain -

This is but a word but I want  
you to feel that we would welcome  
you here in our home, at any time -  
I would like to feel that I had you  
at least once with us! Meanwhile  
Keep well, contented & happy & be  
assured of my continued friendship  
& love -

With kindest regards to Mrs. Spurr

Love affectly

George Greenville Merrill.

# Dr. Speer Will Be First Preacher in Holy Week

Services to Be Held as Usual in Stanley Theater

Mar. 22 Preacher



DR. ROBERT E. SPEER

Dr. Robert E. Speer of New York City will be the first of five guests of the Utica Council of Churches who will speak at noon meetings in Holy Week.

Meetings will be held from 11:50 a. m. to 12:35 p. m. each day from Monday, Mar. 22, to Good Friday, the 26th, inclusive at the Stanley Theater. Singers and organists will participate in the programs.

The Rev. John A. Redmond, minister of Central M. E. Church, in announcing the first speaker in the council's 12th annual series, stated today that acceptances are at hand from all five speakers. The remaining names will be announced in a few days.

Doctor Speer is senior secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. His service with the board began in 1891 after he had taken a year's work in Princeton Theological Seminary. Consequently he did not complete his theological training and has never been ordained. He holds doctorate degrees from four leading universities, including the degree of Doctor of Divinity granted by the University of Edinburgh in 1910.

Beginning his around-the-world travels for the advancement of Presbyterian missions in 1896, Doctor Speer has visited 21 of the 24 fields in which his denomination works. He has represented his board at five of the great international missionary conferences. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. chose him as moderator for its 1927 sessions in San Francisco.

He has been president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, for a four-year term ending 1924, vice-president of the trustees of the American Bible Society and an officer of the Princeton Seminary. He wrote a number of important books, including "The Finality of Jesus Christ" and "Christian Realities."

As Doctor Speer will reach his board's retirement age, 70, in September, he lately announced his decision to retire as Presbyterian missionary secretary during the coming summer. That the years have rested lightly on him is indicated by his continued popularity at young people's mass meetings and conventions.

May 1937

Dear Robert

Dr. Schell  
read a most beautiful  
contribute to you as  
his paper at the alpha  
Saturday evening.  
The discussion was  
so precious and wonderful  
Your heart must have  
been warm!

Edith



*J. J. Guenther*

**TRINITY CHURCH**  
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA  
REV. J. JARDEN GUENTHER, RECTOR

*600*

TELEPHONES  
RECTORY: 1810  
CHURCH: 1693

April 15, 1937.

Dear Dr. Speer:

The Bulletin of the Princeton Theological Seminary prompts me to write a letter which I meant to send some time ago.

I have wanted to express to you a deep and profound appreciation of the influence which you have had in my life. During my College days at Haverford I attended the Student Conferences at Northfield - there you challenged Youth to the great adventure of the Christian life. I shall never forget those days nor those messages of power and inspiration.

Later, as an active layman in the Presbyterian Church - my own Church was the old North Broad Street Church, Philadelphia - I often heard you when you were in Philadelphia.

In 1922, after some ten years of business life, I studied a year at Princeton and then transferred to the Philadelphia Divinity School and was ordained to the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church. However, the grounding of my Faith was during the days of my Presbyterian activity.

As I write this letter I know how many times its expressions of personal gratitude to you could be multiplied by those who have come under your influence.

May God continue to guide, bless and use you.

Faithfully yours,

*J. J. Guenther*

Robert E. Speer, Esqre., D.D., LL.D.,  
New York City, New York.

# Linwood Presbyterian Church

LINWOOD BOULEVARD—WOODLAND TO MICHIGAN

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HARRY CLAYTON ROGERS  
MINISTER

Toro

My dear Robert -

I have just finished reading your remarkable survey of many Christian and world movements in your address given at Astor Park last January.

"Some Changing & Unchanging Things in Foreign Missions" - Many thoughts were woven in my own mind and sent as I traveled over the events and 25 years you refer to -

My mind went back to a meeting at old Mt. Zion Seminary 1902 when you spoke to our Class in "The Great Commission" - after that stead went out to Persia, Here to Syria, we clerkly to India - Class to Korea - Pastors to Japan - and all of the rest of us in that class to pastorate here & there with Christ. What real poetic power you have released for God in all these years - and many of us then and now count you first in list of those who have been our Awakeners - (wonder to God we were more awake and fruer were) -

Ye keen regular I am sure to many of us is that we have not been more active, more capable for Christ & His Church - more devoted, sacrificial as witness of His utterance. Mrs. Rogers and I were held fast by that drama of death when we saw in the British Museum - two years ago - Capt. Scott's diary -

You have gone through much also in all these years in the very sequence of events - the days when Higher & Lower Criticism, and the rise & fall of many a Mass Movement in Evangelism, and political and the like have years a leaping up of final effort to put you in the "liberal class" which ever moves those who know you and your unflinching stand - both to witness and then to smile - and call it a day - and what a day of witness and faith and courage & challenge and love -

# Linwood Presbyterian Church

LINWOOD BOULEVARD—WOOLAND TO MICHIGAN

HARRY CLAYTON ROGERS  
MINISTER

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

This letter—as I think you too perhaps is a reminder  
of Carlyle's "I have written you a long letter because I  
had not had time to write you a short one".

Yes as I receive that at the last meeting Kansas  
City Presbytery, into which I came 30 yrs ago  
to Linwood Church, that you have been returned  
to the Chairmanship of Foreign Missions—  
And in the word of Dr. Piller's serious illness  
are leads me to say— that both to Mrs. Sperr  
and yourself in which Mrs. Rogers joins,  
We hold you both among the strong, rich,  
fervent gifts to us from the treasury of the  
friendships through the years— And if I can  
serve you in the Foreign Board— and Christ  
& the Church with me receive and vital and  
creative service— I shall be glad.

Yours friend  
H. C. Rogers

May 12<sup>th</sup> 1927.

Christianity Today, May 1937

The tentative docket in the "Blue Book," which should be read with care by every commissioner before he reaches the Assembly, indicates that large stress will be placed on foreign missions. This is altogether fitting and it is devoutly to be hoped that the emphasis placed on foreign missions at the Assembly—followed as it is expected by a similar emphasis throughout the Church at large throughout this centennial year—will be instrumental in arousing Presbyterians everywhere to an adequate realization of their responsibility toward those ignorant of the love of God and the Gospel of His Son. No doubt much will be heard at the next Assembly in praise and honor of ROBERT E. SPEER who is about to retire after forty-six years of distinguished service as a secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. There is probably no man in the Church of whom more can be truthfully said by way of praise. It is to be hoped, however, that those who eulogize DR. SPEER will be restrained, in some measure at least, by the fact that much can also be truthfully said by way of criticism of his course, especially during the last ten years—criticism, however, which would be more or less out of place in public speech on the occasion of his retirement. One does not need to be a supporter of the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions to believe that all is not well with the official Board. There is a wide-spread conviction—well-grounded in large part in our judgment—that in recent years the Board under DR. SPEER's leadership has not exercised due care in sending out and in retaining only such missionaries as are loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the standards of the Church and that this is largely responsible for the falling off of contributions for the support of its work. It seems clear, at least to us, that in recent years DR. SPEER has thrown his influence on the side of the so-called liberals within the Church. He was active in bringing about the reorganization of Princeton Seminary and as a candidate for Moderator had, as far as we know, the undivided support of the Auburn Affirmationists. That the Auburn Affirmationists in supporting him did not put the saddle on the wrong horse, so to speak, is evidenced by the fact that DR. SPEER has since gone on record as holding that the fact that there are signers of the Auburn Affirmation among the missionaries on the field does not prove that "the Board of Foreign Missions has sent out or retained in its service missionaries who do not believe in the doctrinal teachings of our Church." More

recently still the publication of his latest book, *What Christ Means to Me*, seems to make clear that DR. SPEER himself does not hold in harmony with repeated deliverances of the General Assembly, that "it is an essential doctrine of the Word of God and our standards that Christ offered up Himself as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and to reconcile us to God." More need not be said about this in view of the citation from DR. SMITH's review of DR. SPEER's book in the editorial that follows under the title, "Wilbur M. Smith re Robert E. Speer." Hence many and conspicuous as are the credits to be set to the account of DR. SPEER it should not be overlooked that there are also some very sizable debits to be placed to his account.

## WILBUR M. SMITH re ROBERT E. SPEER

**I**N OUR February issue we reviewed DR. SPEER's latest book *The Meaning of Christ to Me*, calling special attention to his "very defective conception of the death of Christ." The occasion of this editorial note is to direct attention to an extended review (four full pages of small print) of this book in the April issue of *Revelation* written by DR. WILBUR M. SMITH, well known since 1933 as the editor of Peloubet's Select Notes on the International Sunday School Lessons. While DR. SMITH finds quite a number of things to criticize in DR. SPEER's book it is the chapter entitled "What the Death of Christ Means to Me" that supplies the gravamen of his objections to its representations. Repeated reading of this chapter has forced on him the conclusion that DR. SPEER does not believe in the vicarious, substitutionary atonement of Christ.

DR. SMITH, in view of the (in our opinion somewhat exaggerated) influence that he ascribes to DR. SPEER finds in DR. SPEER's "sadly inadequate and distinctly inaccurate conception" of the meaning of Christ's death a fact that goes far toward explaining the chaos and confusion that exist in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. today. The concluding paragraph of DR. SMITH's review indicates both the viewpoint from which it is written and the main charge it brings against DR. SPEER's position. It is as follows:

"If this book were by some ordinary member of the Protestant Church in our country we could read it, regret some of its statements, deplore some of its omissions, and put it aside, but the author of this book is no ordinary person. Thousands of students in our land have taken their conception of Christ from him. Hundreds of missionaries have been sent out to preach the Gospel under DR. SPEER's supervision. He has had, in the last forty years, more influence over the religious thinking of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., both North and South, than any other man now living. He is probably more implicitly trusted, at least in those things which pertain to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, by more people in the Presbyterian Church today than any other man. May the writer of this review himself confess that he has always insisted, even in the severe conflict of the last four years, that DR. SPEER was himself theologically sound, though his policies and failure to speak out clearly in hours of crisis were to be

deplored. No sadder experience has come to this reviewer himself for a long time than the realization that DR. SPEER is himself not sound in the greatest single doctrine of the Christian faith, namely, the significance of the death of the Son of God on the Cross. If this book is a true presentation of what DR. SPEER believes concerning the death of Christ, then his conception of this holy event is not true to the Presbyterian faith, does not accord with the Presbyterian standards, and, most tragic of all, is not in accord with the teachings of the New Testament. For twenty years I have read DR. SPEER's books with joy, and I have heard him with blessing. Some of his earlier volumes in my library are covered with notes, and it is a sad hour for me, as it will be a sad one for thousands of others, to awaken at last to the realization that DR. SPEER cannot be followed in his interpretation of Christ's holy death for us. If DR. SPEER does not believe in the vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice of Christ, and that we are made righteous before God only by the righteousness of Christ reckoned to us, because our sins are reckoned to Him, then DR. SPEER cannot, having insisted on this truth being accepted by hundreds of missionaries who have gone out under his

direction to preach the Gospel to men who are dead in trespasses and sins, be very consistent in his administration, and very firm in his convictions. After all then, perhaps much more than any of us have ever been willing to admit, may it not be true that a great part of the chaos and confusion, at least in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., is due to the fact that one so powerful, so influential, and so brilliant as DR. ROBERT E. SPEER, is himself confused in his own mind, if not even in darkness, concerning the true significance and meaning of Christ's shedding His own Blood and bearing our sins in His own body on the tree?"

It is to be hoped that DR. SMITH and others (including ourselves) have misunderstood and so misrepresented DR. SPEER's view of the significance of Christ's death and that the misunderstanding and consequent misrepresentation to which he has been subjected will be the occasion of a statement by him that his views at this point are in harmony with historic Christianity. Silence on his part is quite certain to be interpreted as an admission that DR. SMITH has correctly sensed his meaning.

The Prudential Committee of the American Board has learned of the retirement of Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D., for over forty-six years Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. We wish to express to our fellow Mission Board and to Dr. Speer our deep appreciation of his significant contribution to the missionary movement of the past half century and of the warm spirit of Christian comradeship that has always characterized his relations with the American Board. We also recall with gratitude the many services that he has rendered the American Board in various capacities during his years of fruitful service. We shall miss his leadership in interdenominational undertakings, but shall continue to think of him as active in behalf of the Cause.

*Mark H. Ward*

MARK H. WARD

Clerk of Prudential Committee

May 11, 1937

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

INCORPORATED 1812

14 BEACON STREET BOSTON, MASS.

## Foreign Department

MEDICAL SECRETARY  
MARK H. WARD, M. D.ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
HERBERT E. B. CASE

May 27, 1937.

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

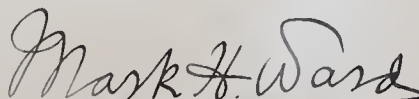
My dear Dr. Speer,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of the action taken by the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions at its last meeting, held here at Congregational House in Boston on May 11th, a copy of which I enclose.

I know that I can speak for all the members of the Committee in stating their sense of loss as they face your retirement from active service for foreign missions. The American Board has looked to you for leadership in this enterprise in which we are engaged. The missionaries of the American Board, scattered as they are over the world, will also want to join with the Prudential Committee in extending to you their love and esteem.

We pray that health and strength will be given you for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,



MARK H. WARD, M.D.

Clerk of Prudential Committee

C  
Enc.

EDWIN M. BULKLEY  
TWENTY-FIVE BROAD STREET  
NEW YORK

May 14, 1937.

My dear Rob;

For reasons not to be explained, I have a sense of being impelled to send you a few lines, although so long in advance of your birthday and date of retirement. Were I to wait later, I might be placed at a disadvantage, even beyond inability to write by hand; and of which I shall be more conscious when away during the summer and amid other scenes.

If gathering with the group at One Fifty Six the coming Monday, it probably will be the last time I shall sit in your official presence. The sad phases of what is before me I shall not dwell upon, but I would be otherwise than human were I not conscious of the difference.

In many ways I shall doubtless cling to you even the more, but this will be altogether apart from Board' circles. I should be the one going out and you, with all of your vigor and power of mind and spirit, remaining in.

It would be the height of folly for me to attempt expression of sentiment and love, for which eternity would be all too short.

Even with all my short-comings, you must know how I have loved with heart and soul, and what your life must have meant to mine.

It makes me very humble to think of a material tribute, yet I would ask in the light of September tenth, nineteen hundred and thirty seven, the acceptance of the enclosed.

In friendship, which will be unending, I am,

Devotedly yours,



Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
New York, N.Y.

A MINUTE OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN  
JAMAICA, N.Y., ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. ROBERT E.  
SPEER, SENIOR SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN  
MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church in  
Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y., having learned of the retirement  
of Dr. Robert E. Speer, Senior Secretary of the Board of  
Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,  
desires to express its gratitude to Almighty God for the  
apostolic labors of this devoted servant of the Cross, over  
a period of forty <sup>six</sup> years; for the notable gifts with which he  
has been so liberally and generously endowed and so freely  
and unsparingly used in the service of the church; for his  
skilled hand and judicious mind so wonderfully matched to the  
tasks which had to be undertaken, and the programmes of action  
which had to be carefully considered; for himself, a man raised  
up for the occasion, mentally and spiritually equipped to meet  
new problems, and lead the church of the living Christ into  
ampler fields of service, and more glorious victories. For all  
these things this Session gives thanks to God.

May his bow abide in strength and his hands be  
strengthened by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob.

Done in Session  
this 24th day of April, 1937

*Andrew Magill*  
ANDREW MAGILL, Moderator

*G. Warren Smith*  
G. WARREN SMITH, Clerk



Telephone 66236.

AM

Ingleside,  
39, Westbourne Road,  
Birkdale.

April 2nd

Dear Dr. Giles.

I don't know how the Board  
of Foreign Missions will get  
along without you, at your  
resignation!

I suppose your influence  
is so great, that somehow they'll  
always feel you are still there,  
for an influence like yours  
must always remain -

Many, many years ago -  
you once spoke to my  
boy's Club in what was  
then called "The Sunday  
School room" of the

Presbyterian Church in  
England. I remember every  
word you then said, to this  
day!

It is very lovely to feel you  
and Mrs. Speer can be able  
to be together in your retirement.  
I hope many years of great  
happiness lie before you -

If you manage to get over  
to see your daughter (I still  
live in hope she may get up  
here) don't forget, please, we  
are only 20 miles from  
Liverpool, and would feel it  
a great privilege if you  
could visit us -

With love to you both

(Mrs. N. S. Wood) "Lucy Jackson"

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Litchfield, Conn---June 3, 37

Dr Robert E. Speer  
New York

Dear Dr Speer:-

When I had read last week's issue of The Presbyterian banner. I said, -Amen! and sent the copy to Will Ridgway and Charles Huston of Coatesville in the hope that they, too, would thank God for giving to the church and the world the man at whose fireside we gather before we say, Farewell.

You came into my life when I was pastor in Brooklyn and you had taken up your duties as secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. This companionship was made more precious because your home had been in Huntington, Pa and knew my college classmate Will Dorris. What a defeated life he had become when the greatest opportunities were his!

It is out of place to seek a personal survey of your public life, but may I say that you have had a big part in giving to us the united church of to-day and your heart has made this possible--a church brotherhood that saved the church from disruption and gave to it its influence throughout the world now.

Life does not close at 70--it brings back as companions the precious memories of a life that has reflected the love of God and made these pictures a blessing as the years pass.

Now when you come over from Lakeville I'll not ask for any word but just a hand shake for auld lang syne

Sincerely

H. G. Mendenhall

WILLIAM F. MERRILL  
President  
HAMILTON HOLT  
Vice-President  
HENRY A. ATKINSON  
General Secretary

LINLEY V. GORDON  
Extension Secretary  
G. S. BARKER  
Assistant Secretary

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Office of the Secretary  
70 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

Cable Address—"ECCLEFAX, New York"  
Telephone—ALGONQUIN 4-2720

6780 Collins Ave.,  
Miami Beach, Fla.,  
April 22, 1937

My dear Dr. Speer :- You were a  
good man for writing that inspirational  
letter & for sending me the two stimulating  
booklets which contained two of  
your addresses.

Your allusion to the woman  
in the Gospel who fell into the  
hands of various physicians is  
most apposite. I have been in their  
presence for a long while & very  
often. Several things, however,

have been corrected in me, by <sup>them</sup>,  
+ I trust I shall soon feel the  
benefit.

Your statement and your address  
were read with deep interest. I have  
never heard you speak in committees,  
or public meetings, or churches  
without being impressed with your  
prodigious memory + your genius  
for going to the root of the matter  
under discussion. The ability you  
have for using material, like the  
man the hero in Scott's expedition,  
has always amazed me. Over  
20 years have gone since I first  
met you + through all that time  
you have helped me although you  
have not known it. And still  
you continue your help + I am  
grateful.

I was glad to see that you  
wielded a fine stroke in support  
of religious liberty in both pamphlets.  
What a problem that is + what a  
problem it will be for a long time.

over your faithfulness  
timely aid

D. B. Schroeder

5

R. E. Speer

67 Whitney Ave.,

New Haven, Conn.,

Ans.

May 29, '37

Dear Dr. Speer,

Please pardon my long delay in acknowledging your very kind letter of March 31st. I deeply appreciate your kind and encouraging words. Mrs. Schroeder and I do have much to be grateful for, though often we feel that we would like to try it all over and see whether we could not do better.

One of my helps has been the inspiration of your own personality and life. Ever since I saw you and Mott on the platform at the Student Volunteer Convention in Cleveland,

I have followed your life,  
and have ever been cheer-  
ed by it, — from then all the  
way to Asbury Park last Jan-  
uary.

I have thought of you and  
Mrs. Speer specially the past  
few days in connection with  
the affair at Northfield. I fear  
wounds have been opened  
afresh. You have our deep  
sympathy.

Mrs. Schreder joins in kind-  
est regards.

yours fraternally,  
D. B. Schreder,

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Mountain Lakes, N. J.  
June 13, 1937

My dear Dr. Spear:

I have been following the tributes to your service & to you with the deepest interest & gratification & I would to add my own.

From a way back in my student days, long before you ever heard of me, I have drawn upon you in increasing measure. I can recall very numerous of special occasions when, without knowing it, you were - sustaining & guiding influence & force.

These later on, when we became associates, your sympathy, even at times when I was misguided, was far more corrective than the criticism of others. These occasions come back to me now in a flood, reawakening & redoubling



my sense of gratitude.

And, of course, my heart is again  
deeply touched as I recall your  
attitude in 1930-31 when you gave  
me a course which made it  
possible for me to continue a  
little usefulness, when others, I  
am sorry to say, sought to bury  
me alive. I can especially re-  
call my wife's gratitude at  
that time. Had not that been  
done, I am quite sure that  
the burial would have been  
so deep that I should not be  
alive to day.

But all these are just charac-  
teristic of your spirit & I know that  
there is a cloud of such witnesses  
as myself.

And now I can just ask you  
to recall what you said at Wash-  
ington in December, 1930, turn it around  
& make it as from me to you.


God bless you

Charles S. Macfarland

Dr. Robert E. Speer

R. E. Speer

# The NORTHFIELD SCHOOLS

NORTHFIELD SEMINARY  MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL

MISS MIRA B. WILSON  
Principal

DAVID R. PORTER  
Headmaster

JOHN L. GRANDIN, Chairman, Executive Committee  
STEPHEN BAKER, Chairman, Finance Committee  
ARTHUR H. GILBERT, Treasurer

AMBERT G. MOODY, Clerk  
GEORGE MCEWAN, Assistant Treasurer  
ALBERT E. ROBERTS, Executive Secretary

EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

June 1, 1937.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of May 28th. It hardly seems possible that the end of the school year is so near and that I am to end my thirty-six years of service at Hermon and here. They have been happy years. Some of my happiest memories are those of my association with Elliott. I think of him now in two ways. One is his service here, and the other is his present service in a sphere of activity where his energy and enthusiasm find full scope. He is often mentioned among us with admiration and gratitude and may I add that I also prize my memories of your inspiring talks when I was a student at Hermon and on many, many occasions since?

We are moving the last of this month to my boyhood house and home in Lanesville (Gloucester), Mass. I expect to write some and to serve a Proton Lyceum Bureau in talks on Current Events. If you and Mrs. Speer ever come to Gloucester we hope that you will come to see us.

We wish you the good rest and freedom which

Presbyterian  
May 20 37

# Robert E. Speer—Christian

By Delavan L. Pierson

ROBERT E. SPEER has had the name, ever since he was in college, of doing the work of three men; but he was never known to ask for an increase in salary or a decrease in the work he has felt called to do. In Princeton, as an undergraduate, he not only took the highest scholastic honors in his class, with *Phi Beta Kappa* standing and *Magna Cum Laude*, but he played in the varsity football team, was prize debater and orator, took part in college dramatics, was managing editor of the *Princetonian*, and was president of the Y. M. C. A., but he also found time for general reading, sports and good fellowship.

He has kept up that pace ever since, so as to be the despair of any who have sought to emulate him. While still in his first year at Princeton Seminary (1891), he was called to the secretaryship of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, at the age of twenty-four. Already, after having been graduated from Princeton University as valedictorian of his class in 1889, he had given effective service as traveling secretary (without salary) of the newly established Student Volunteer Movement. His mind and heart were set on witnessing to Christ in the foreign mission field. When he decided to leave the seminary in order to accept the responsible position in the Board of Foreign Missions, a friend said to him: "So you are changing your plans and tactics." Dr. Speer replied: "That is the way to surprise the enemy." He had already refused to accept other remunerative positions because they were not in line with his life purpose, but he has never had cause to doubt that it was in response to a call of God that he accepted the missionary secretaryship.

During his forty-six years of tireless and challenging service in the Board of Foreign Missions, Dr. Speer has set a pace which none have been able to follow. In addition to his arduous work as corresponding secretary, at various times, for Persia, India, Latin America and other parts of the twenty-four missions of the Board, he has filled a continuous program of speaking engagements in schools, colleges and seminaries, churches, presbyteries and synods, conferences and union meetings; he has been active on the Committee of Reference and Council of the Foreign Missions Conference. For twenty-five years he was chairman of the Committee on Coöperation in Latin America; was for two years president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; was vice-president of the Trustees of Mount Hermon School, and has long been active as a director of Princeton Seminary; in 1927 he was elected to the highest honor of the Church, Moderator of the General Assembly.

On the side he has contributed numberless articles to the press and has written about forty books—including biographies, Bible studies, spiritual and theological treatises, and books on missions. His two latest volumes, "The Finality of Jesus Christ" and "The Meaning of

Christ to Me," give his deepest Christian convictions and show his unswerving loyalty to Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of men, and to the Bible as the inspired Word of God.

While Robert E. Speer has always been averse to personal publicity and to anything that might seem to exalt himself, he has never hesitated to take any position where he felt that he might effectively serve his Master. He refused all honorary degrees until he was finally surprised with a "D. D." from the University of Edinburgh in 1910. He is one of the few unordained men who have received such a degree.

Robert Elliott Speer was born in Huntington, Pa., on September 10, 1867. After preparing in local schools and two years at Phillips Academy, Andover, he entered Princeton in the fall of 1885. There, in Freshman year, on the Day of Prayer for Colleges, he openly surrendered his life to Christ. Twenty-five years later he wrote to Dr. Arthur T. Pierson, the speaker on that occasion:

"Although I grew up in a Christian home, and was identified with Christian work in school and college, it was in my Freshman year at Princeton, on the Day of Prayer for schools and colleges, after your sermon in the afternoon and at the after-meeting, which you conducted in the evening, that I first publicly acknowledged Christ and resolved to join myself openly to His Church."

It was in his Sophomore year, during a visit to Princeton of John Forman and Robert Wilder, in the interests of foreign missions, that Dr. Speer volunteered for active service in the foreign field "God permitting." Soon after this, he himself began to give religious and missionary addresses—a practice he has kept up for half a century and is still going stronger than ever. Now the rules of the Church in which he served has put him on the "honorably retired list," but it will be impossible to retire him, while life and health and human need and opportunity remain, and while the Spirit of God calls to further service for Christ his Lord.

This man, still young at seventy, reads on the average of two or three books a week many of them solid treatises that would take most readers a month or more to digest. Now, at the time of retirement, he has already refused a college presidency, a theological professorship, and the editorship of a monthly magazine. He has enough projects ahead to occupy him for another half-century of vigorous activity.

It would not be difficult for a friend and debtor for fifty years to write extensively and even extravagantly of such a Christian man, whom he loves and admires; but we refrain, knowing Robert E. Speer's distaste for premature biographical obituary eulogies.

In spite of the critics who seem to enjoy taking occasional shots at outstanding leaders of the Church, Dr. Speer has never responded to attacks with signs of resentment nor has he shown any lack of the Spirit of Christ. He clearly believes that love and faith must b

revealed, in words and deeds. His reputation he has committed to his Master. His loyalty to Christ and the Word of God are clearly expressed in his books, and these testimonies should silence all honest critics. As to his belief in the deity and supremacy of Christ, he declares in one of his most recent volumes, "The Finality of Jesus Christ," published in 1933:

"If there were words that one could use, or any mode of approach to this one supreme issue, which would more highly exalt Jesus Christ or make more clear and vivid the faith that He is God and the Son of God, not to be classified in any human category, and the One Saviour from sin and the One answer to all the need of the world, the writer would use these words and pursue that approach." (Page 5.)

"On this Rock of Christ Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of man, the only Redeemer, Saviour and Lord, the Christian Church stood at the beginning. Here it has stood through all the ages. Here it must continue to stand." (Page 377.)

In another still more recent volume, "The Meaning of Christ to Me," published in 1936, he testifies to his convictions *as to the deity of Christ* by saying:

"I want to state my grounds for my own personal faith in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ." (See Chapter II.)

*As to the death of Christ*, he says:

"Nothing is clearer than the fact that Christ died for us; we fall back on the glorious teachings of the New

Testament; Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the righteous, that He might bring us to God. . . . It was not the death of Christ that won the love of God. It was the love of God that gave Christ to die." (Pages 90-91.)

"The death of Christ is the fact in history, the great objective deed, which, completed by the Resurrection, is the basis of Christian salvation both as faith and as experience. Salvation is something done for us, not by us." (Page 112.)

"As a simple-hearted freight brakeman on the Pennsylvania Railroad put it once as we rode together in an open freight car: 'He died my death for me, that I might live His life for Him.'" (Page 115.)

*As to the Second Coming:*

"The hope of Christ's coming again is an integral part of our Christian faith. . . . Some Christians simply pass over the New Testament teachings on this subject. . . . There cannot be the slightest question as to what the plain, simple declaration of the New Testament is. . . . All that this 'Blessed Hope' meant to the early Christians it means to us." (Pages 153, 156, 159 and 166.)

In "Some Living Issues" he testified to his belief in *the Virgin birth:*

"If we believe that the Gospels are true, we have no difficulty in believing in the Virgin Birth of our Lord. The gospels unmistakably affirm that He was born of a virgin. This is the first, and for all of us who believe the Gospels, the sufficient ground for our conviction." (Page 59.)

Such quotations might be multiplied, but life speaks even more clearly and convincingly than words.

## The Seventh Presbyterian Church

East Walnut Hills, Cincinnati

JESSE HALSEY, Minister  
2726 CLEINVIEW AVE.

Dear Doctor Speer -

Saturday night.

Duties at Pheville College will keep me away on Wednesday from the great celebration (+ dedication). But my heart will be there with you.

The Ramparts <sup>also</sup> will be crowded with those who look down in pride and blessing from above.

Let me add my love -

As ever

Jesse

# The PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

MAY 27, 1937

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## The Methods Of A Master

By W. REGINALD WHEELER

*Mr. Wheeler has been associated with Dr. Speer in foreign mission service for twenty-two years; for eleven years as a missionary in China, for eleven years as an executive secretary of the Foreign Board in New York*

**D**R. SPEER'S record of achievement is phenomenal. He is the senior secretary, and for forty-six years, he has been the dominant leader in what is now the largest Foreign Mission Board in the world. He has been the moderator of his own Church; he has been the elected and responsible leader in interdenominational organizations, such as, the Foreign Missions Conference of Churches in North America, the Federal Council of Churches in America, the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America. He has traveled widely in mission lands and in Europe, has been twice around the world, three times to China and the far east, twice to South America. He is one of the most eloquent and most forceful speakers on religious subjects in the United States today; he is the author of thirty-three books.

*The Banner is pleased to announce that Dr. Arthur B. McCormick who is well known to our readers, has consented to serve as acting editor of The Banner. In consequence his page of world items will for the time be discontinued.*

How has he been able to accomplish all this? What are his methods, his technique? What are his habits of study and work? What is the explanation of his prodigious accomplishments? The simplest answer is that he is a man of genius, with a sense of mission and a whole-souled devotion to a world cause.

A genius cannot be explained wholly in terms of heredity or environment. In a true sense, and especially in religious service, a genius is "a man sent from God." We can thank God for him, follow his leadership, try to learn from him, and be blessed by his spirit—but we cannot really explain him. Yet geniuses have certain methods, certain attitudes that become habits of work, and these methods and habits we can analyze and describe.

### Disciplined Use of Time is a Guiding Principle

Among some general principles maintained by Dr. Speer in his work, I would name first disciplined use of time, particularly fragments of time often wasted and unused. Until quite recently, Dr. Speer was one of the vast army of commuters who spend nearly two hours in traveling to and from their offices in New York. Of these two hours, approximately one hour is spent on the train. It is interesting to watch the stream of travelers on these trains, to see how they spend their time. The great majority of them follow a fixed procedure. In the morning they read the morning paper, and talk with fellow commuters; in the evening, they talk with fellow commuters, and read the evening paper. The diurnal journey is not distinguished by mental productivity.

Dr. Speer follows a different course. When he boards the train, his brief case is with him; out of the brief case come papers and reports from the office, or a book. He plunges at once into their perusal, and concentrates on their perusal to the exclusion of all conversation with fellow passengers, as many of them have discovered. I have seen him intent on a book while standing up and clinging to a strap in a train in the Hudson Tunnel. A friend tells me how even on a summer vacation, a ten-minute period before meals is used for writing, ten minutes that others less thrifty in time-saving will usually spend in less productive ways. The summer vacation month is used, not for golf or other recreation, but for writing another book. In this way, time is saved and "the unforgiving minute is filled with sixty seconds' worth of distance run."

Even in his home, Dr. Speer puts the work ahead of social amenities or conversation. Most men leave their work when they leave their office. Not so with Dr. Speer. He takes it with him on the train; promptly after the evening meal, the papers come out of the portfolio, and he turns to them. This habit of saving time, even at a loss of personal contact, was formed early in life—apparently during Dr. Speer's college days. A Princeton classmate tells how other members of the

(Please Turn To Page 11)

## Dr. Robert E. Speer

THE first time I heard Robert E. Speer was at the Toronto Student Volunteer Convention. In many respects that was the high watermark of the Volunteer Movement. It made a lasting impression upon me and upon the eight thousand students who were in attendance from the colleges of North America. My outstanding memory of it, however, is of Dr. Speer. He was the far-seeing statesman, the incomparable orator, the peerless leader. If you will turn to his address on that occasion, under the title "The Abounding Resources of the Christian Church," you will sense something of his power. When you read it remember that it was dealing with facts and figures and from beginning to end Dr. Speer spoke without notes or scrap of paper. What were the resources of the Christian church which he so masterfully marshalled? On the lowest plane they belonged in the realm of the material and figures were given to show the wealth of the Christian church and the possibility of its meeting all the obligations of the missionary enterprise. Then there were the resources which the church possessed in life, especially in youth. He accurately prophesied the increasing throngs of young people who would pass through the colleges and universities of our land sufficient for all missionary needs. He set forth the equipment of the church and the set-up of its missionary program in lands beyond the sea. And then the abounding resources which the church possessed in God, in the power of prayer, in sacrifice and in the presence of him who said, "Lo, I am with you always."

Since that day the experience of that convention has been repeated again and again before small groups, magnificent audiences, at home and abroad. For six months it was my privilege to wander with him through Japan and Korea, up into Manchuria, down through China. We spoke at uncounted conferences, at school assemblies, chapels and churches, in homes and in open air retreats, and his inexhaustible supply of personal experience, of Bible interpretation, of Christian testimony, of intimate understanding of men and books, never ran thin much less dry and in it all there was always the same undaunted courage, the same wise counsel, the same enthusiasm and the sure note that there is no other name given under heaven among men whereby they can be saved but the name that is above every name.

Once when unexpectedly he was compelled to reveal the fact that he had been suffering physical pain while he kept on with his task I said, "Man alive, why didn't you speak out?" And the answer was, "I prefer to burn my own smoke," and that is what he did and always has done. Under criticism he has kept silence, during acclaim a still deeper silence. One wonders if ever a man better fitted into Mrs. Browning's phrase "as

strong men shrink from praise." He has had plenty of praise for nearly half a century. It may have helped him but no one knows. Such a life would have run on the rocks long since if it had not possessed the grace of God and the saving grace of humor. His life has been at peace within itself but it has had two "soul-sides"; one side the audience saw. It was seri-

### WHO IS ROBERT E. SPEER?

Robert Elliott Speer—missionary secretary; born Huntingdon, Pa., Sept. 10, 1867; son of Hon. Robert Milton and Martha Ellen (McMurtree) Speer; A.B., Princeton, 1889; student, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1890-91; hon. A.M., Yale, 1903; D.D., U. of Edinburgh, 1910; LL.D., Rutgers, 1920, Otterbein, 1926; Litt. D., Juniata College, 1922; married Emma Doll Bailey, of Harrisburg, Pa., April 20, 1893; children—Elliott (dec.), Margaret E., Eleanor McM. (dec.), Constance S., William. Sec. Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions since 1891. Made visitation of Christian missions in Persia, India, China, Korea, Japan, in 1896-97; S. America in 1909, '25; Japan, China, Philippines and Siam, 1915; India and Irak and Persia, 1921-22; Japan and China, 1926. Author: *The Man Christ Jesus*, 1896; *The Man Paul*, 1900; *Missions and Politics in Asia*, 1898; *A Memorial of a True Life*, 1896; *Remember Jesus Christ*, 1899; *Studies in the Book of Acts*; *Studies in the Gospel of Luke*; *Christ and Life*, 1901; *The Principles of Jesus*, 1902; *Missionary Principles and Practice*, 1902; *Presbyterian Foreign Missions*, 1901; *A Memorial of Horace Tracy Pitkin*, 1903; *Missions and Modern History*, 1904; *The Marks of a Man*, 1907; *Christianity and the Nations*, 1910; *The Light of the World*, 1911; *South American Problems*, 1912; *Studies in Missionary Leadership*, 1914; *One Girl's Influence*, 1914; *Studies in the Gospel of John*, 1915; *The Stuff of Manhood*, 1917; *The Gospel and the New World*, 1919; *The New Opportunity of the Church*, 1919; *Race and Race Relations*, 1924; *The Unfinished Task*, 1926; *The Church and Missions*, 1926; *Seeking the Mind of Christ*, 1926; *Sir James Ewing*, 1928; *Some Living Issues*, 1930; *Owen Crimmins*, 1931; *The Finality of Jesus Christ*, 1933; *Christian Realities*, 1935; *The Meaning of Christ To Me*, 1935. Mem. advisory com. religious and moral activities of Army and Navy, during war period; chairman General Wartime Com. of the Churches; ex-president Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; moderator Presbyterian Church in U.S.A., 1927; chairman Com. on Cooperation in Latin America. Home: 24 Gramercy Park. Office: 156 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

(Who's Who, 1936-37)

ous, intense, intellectually alert, passionate. The other side a few intimate friends saw. It was not less serious but it revealed unexpected pleasantries and a fine sense of humor. If you doubt it ask the members of the Foreign Board and the staff, and if you fail then come to me and I will give you the evidence. It is Dr. Speer's high distinction that, having put his hand to the plough, he has never looked back. He would have succeeded anywhere. If he had been put in the middle of the desert with empty hands the world would have heard of him. He has ploughed a straight furrow through all the years that have now become a treasured memory.

HUGH THOMSON KERR.

## The Moderator And Stated Clerk Pay Tribute To Dr. Speer

**T**HE Moderator and Stated Clerk of the General Assembly respond with eagerness to the request of *The Banner* that they join in a tribute of admiration and affection for Dr. Speer. This is both easy and difficult to do. It is easy to speak in flattering terms of Dr. Speer's life and service because they have been so unselfish. It is difficult so to do because words are not available which will adequately convey all that is in our hearts.

In the course of the history of Presbyterianism in America there have emerged a number of personalities of outstanding ability whose contributions to the life and work of the Church have been most significant. Among these notable men there are a very few who, because of the character and extent of their services, are given, by general consent, special preeminence. Francis Makemie is the dominant Presbyterian personality of the early colonial period. John Witherspoon epitomizes the influence and significance of Presbyterian doctrine and polity in the events which lead up to and reached their consummation in the organization of our first General Assembly and of our national government. Charles Hodge is representative of the best in scholarship and statesmanship in our Church in the nineteenth century.

We do not claim to have the gift of prophecy but when the next generation comes to survey and evaluate the influence and significance of our great Church in the national and world affairs during the closing days of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, the towering position occupied by Dr. Robert E. Speer in practically all of the great evangelical Christian movements of this period will, we believe, be recognized. It will not be a matter of surprise to us if he ultimately occupies a place in the records of our Church comparable with that now occupied by the great ecclesiastical statesmen to whom reference has just been made.

This informal expression of love and admiration of Dr. Speer would not be complete if we did not include

in it a statement of our belief that the operation of the seventy year ineligibility rule will in no wise impair the significance of Dr. Speer's leadership in the outstanding national and ecumenical movements of the day. Indeed there is every reason to believe that with continuing physical and mental and spiritual vigor and freed from executive responsibility and office routine, he will be able by voice and printed word to enlighten and inspire as never before. Therefore, it is our prayerful hope that he may be spared for years to come to place at the disposal of our own, and of all the other evangelical communions throughout the world, the rich fruitage of his years of reading, meditation and close fellowship with the Lord and Savior whom he has so loyally and significantly served.

DR. JOSEPH R. SIZOO, Minister  
Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, New York

There are men in the world who are great, not only because they stand so far in advance of the rest of mankind, but rather because they have a way of holding together and unifying that position of mankind with which they live. That is to me the genius and the glory of Dr. Speer's life.

It is true that because of his talent, his insight and understanding he is far ahead of most of us. But the greatness of his life is that somehow he holds together and unifies the whole fellowship of the Presbyterian Church and all who represent the Calvinistic faith. When you are asked by the world what makes a Presbyterian, you inevitably say, "It is Dr. Robert E. Speer." He is the incarnation of all that is fine and best in the everyday life of the Presbyterian fellowship. He is the magnet who draws, not only all life to him, but because of that, one life is joined to another in closer fellowship. There are men who have led a group or a people or a fellowship for a period of time more or less limited or fixed, but Dr. Speer is one of those men who has never stepped out of the leadership of the fellowship of Calvinistic people and he is as radiant a force among us today as he was thirty years ago. There must be something unusual about a man of whom one can say that.

There is about Dr. Speer an unfaltering faith. You become increasingly aware in him that when once life follows the will of God nothing can ultimately destroy or defeat it. I remember very well at one General Assembly when there was rather serious discussion about the withdrawal of the Presbyterian Church from the Federal Council he, single-handed and alone, for a while bore the brunt of that debate as he stood four-square for the policy of continuing relationships with the Federal Council. He won. After that meeting some of us were talking to him and one said, "Dr. Speer, you stood your ground well." He replied, "I am always convinced that what is right will win. I never had a second thought."

So, with his friends the world over, and who is

his friend, I join in this word of felicitation and good will.

**DR. CHARLES F. WISHART, President  
The College of Wooster**

When I was a young man in the seminary, Robert E. Speer was just starting upon his brilliant career— young and handsome, devoted and virile, with that magnificent voice and the self-evident sincerity which gripped all hearts. Perhaps nobody ever swayed me as much as he did from the platform. This was long before I ever came to know him personally. He was one of that group of young men—Mott, White, Lyon, Luther Wishard, and others—who stirred student audiences to the very depths with missionary appeals, and I never realized that the time would ever come that I would know him with any degree of intimacy. Somehow one feels that no one ever ventured upon too much intimacy with Speer. There is a profound inner core to the man which no one ever quite penetrates. But it has been one of the rich blessings of my later life that I did come to know him, and that in thus knowing him he seemed not to shrink into the commonplace as most men do on closer acquaintance, but rather to grow more colossal in his Christian character and devotion.

I shall never forget being with him when he was passing through a time of deepest dejection because of the cruel attacks of certain misguided self-appointed defenders of orthodoxy. It was not more than an hour since he had made before the General Assembly one of the most magnificent speeches I had ever heard, but he confessed in all sincerity that during the first part of that great address he had scarcely known what he was saying. Perhaps the Spirit bears witness to great souls at a time like that. I could not but note that while the man was in deep sorrow, there was in him no slightest trace of resentment. It seemed to me a tragedy that so magnificent an official service should, when nearing its close, be subjected to such inexcusable misinterpretations, but I tried to tell him then what we all feel now: that these little incidents only furnish a foil for the universal reverence and affection which a great Church and thousands of men and women all over the world feel toward him.

May God long prosper his life to a ministry none the less beautiful and effective because no longer in active official status.

**DR. JOHN A. MACKAY, President  
Princeton Seminary**

When I think of Dr. Speer my thoughts go back to the first time I saw and heard him in 1910, the year of the first World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh. I was then a student at the University of Aberdeen, and Dr. Speer came to give the Duff Lectures. There came into my life at that time a figure whose personal presence and overpowering words gave me the impression that he was the greatest man I had ever seen and

heard. The knowledge that he had been a student and was then a director of Princeton Theological Seminary was one of the reasons that led me to cross the ocean some years later. The study of his book on Latin-American problems sealed forever my determination to go to Latin America as a missionary.

As I think of him in retrospect in the course of the years since then, the almost awesome reverence with which I regarded him at a distance as a young man has passed into the intimate devotion of the friend and fellow-worker. At points so distant from one another as Montevideo, Uruguay; Lima, Peru; Jerusalem, and New York, I have been close to him. Awe and reverence have not died within me in the interval, but devotion and gratitude have steadily grown towards one who in an unusual way has helped to mould one's life and keep one true to the things that are Christ's.

**DR. E. GRAHAM WILSON, Secretary  
Presbyterian Board of National Missions**

My memory of Robert E. Speer goes back to my college days at the Northfield Student Conference. He was the outstanding figure among the leaders at these conferences. His platform addresses were powerful and compelled us to face life and its responsibilities. But it was in the conferences which he held by appointment with the students that I remember him best for it was in one of these conferences that the course of my life was changed. Well do I recall the day when I talked with him about a personal problem which was keeping me from a complete dedication of my life to the cause of Christ. His words, so simple but so wise, brought to me light and strength which opened up for me a new life. I have faltered many times along the way since, but always go back to that time when Robert E. Speer challenged me to surrender my life completely to the will of God. My experience was one which was shared by many other students in the years gone by. No other man has had the influence which under God he has had in the student world. May God raise up others to take his place.

**JOSEPH C. ROBBINS, Secretary  
The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society**

In the retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer, the Foreign Mission movement loses from active service its outstanding leader. While Dr. Speer is officially related to the Presbyterian Church, his sympathies are so broad, his understanding and counsel so wide, and his sacrificial devotion to the cause of Christ so steadfast, that in reality he belongs to all branches of the Church of Christ, and we are all indebted to his leadership.

Others will speak of Dr. Speer's service to the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the Foreign Missions Council of the United States and Canada, the International Missionary Council, and the Student Volunteer Movement: I would speak of what Dr. Speer has meant to us personally. By his addresses



he presented the gospel of Jesus Christ and his worldwide mission in such an impelling, warm-hearted, and challenging way as to win hundreds to personal discipleship and dedication to foreign missionary service to all the world. His books have brought strength, illumination, and new purpose to thousands of men and women throughout the whole world. His keen intellect and his ready grasp of all factors in a problem, have made him a sound, far-seeing, and honored Christian world-leader.

Above everything that he has said or done, Robert Speer has made, and continues to make, his greatest contribution through his own strong, lovable personality. From his student days at Princeton until now, his devotion to Christ, the depth of his convictions, the reality and beauty of his life with his Master, have been and are a benediction to us. Other great men have made us aspire to do great things; Robert Speer always makes us want to live closer to Christ.

Personally, and as representatives of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, we love Robert Speer and thank God for him.

**DR. ARTHUR V. CASSELMAN, Secretary  
Board of Foreign Missions, Reformed Church, U. S.**

The retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer from the active service of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., is not simply a Presbyterian affair. It is a major event in missionary history in America. Dr. Speer belongs to us all. He is the senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board, but he has been the honorary advisory secretary of all our boards. By his far-sighted, Christian statesmanship he has led all of us. By his clear, masterful thinking he has helped all of us solve our problems. By his sure, solid faith he has steadied us all. By the breadth of his kindly affection he has won all our hearts. No person outside the membership of the denomination has been of more helpful service to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States than Dr. Speer. It is with grateful appreciation that the members of our Board of Foreign Missions bear this affectionate testimony.

Personally, I owe more to Dr. Robert E. Speer than to any other living man. It was when I was a senior in college, floundering around as most seniors do, that, as president of my college Y.M.C.A., I was sent to a conference of college "Y" presidents at Ohio Wesleyan University. An address by Dr. Speer, then a young man himself, clarified and set my life. I doubt not that throughout America a great company of missionary pastors and mission board officials look to Dr. Speer as the initiatory inspiration of much that is best in their missionary ministry.

The host of Dr. Speer's friends in the Reformed Church in the United States, and especially the officers and members of the Board of Foreign Missions, pray that God's richest blessings may abide with him now and always.

**HENRY SLOANE COFFIN, President  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

My first acquaintance with Robert Speer was at Northfield, where as a Yale undergraduate more than forty years ago I attended student conferences presided over by D. L. Moody. One address of Speer's on the Gospel according to Mark still sticks in my memory. A few weeks ago I listened to him at Richmond, Virginia, speaking on the "Cross," and my dominant impression is of the consistency of his convictions and the enduring vigor and effectiveness of his method and manner of presenting them. Few men have changed so little. Throughout the intervening years in which we have been repeatedly together under many different circumstances I have been enriched by the friendship of a convinced, forceful, uncompromising, devoted Christian leader, always reading and suggesting interesting illustrations to me, always working and driving himself at top speed and to the limit of his robust powers, always to be relied on to bring a rich contribution to every occasion. One's admiration and affection for him cannot be put into words, nor one's thankfulness to God for the thousands all over the world to whom he has been in the literal sense of the word a *plenipotentiary* ambassador of Christ.

**DR. F. M. POTTER  
Reformed Church in America**

In student days I admired Dr. Speer from a distance. He is to me as to many others the central figure in recollections of student conferences in the early years of this century. In 1913 it was my privilege, as a missionary appointed to India, to spend an afternoon at his home with a group of Presbyterian missionaries similarly appointed, for our Presbyterian friends always followed this gracious practice with their Reformed associates, so close and intimate has been our fellowship. I can never forget those precious hours when I was given a little glimpse of the warm, human side of a great Christian gentleman. In later years, as a fellow-secretary, I have been brought into close contact with Dr. Speer in many common tasks. While his example can be only the despair of an ordinary secretary, yet it has been also one of the deep influences of my life. His retirement from active service will leave a gap which dismays us all, and to me it brings a keen sense of personal loss.

**DR. WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES, Minister  
Old First Church, Newark, New Jersey**

Dr. Speer with his monumental and vast-ranging mind, and his marvelous array of abilities, interests and concerns, has a wonderful way of dealing with individuals. On the train returning from the sessions of the General Assembly of 1924 at Grand Rapids, a minister was seated by himself. Dr. Speer came down the aisle and paused for a moment. "I have a favor to ask you," he said. "Granted!" the other promptly replied. "You mustn't be so sure until you know what

it is!" Dr. Speer rejoined with a twinkle in his eye. The minister replied, "I can't conceive your asking a favor which it would not be a joy for me, or for anyone else, to grant. Taking you at your word, however, what may I do to serve you?" And then the great-souled man leaned over and said quietly, "Will you call me 'Robert' and let me call you 'William' all the rest of our lives?" And so it has been over all the intervening years. To his face, "William" still calls him "Robert," but in his deepest heart, when he thinks of the Church of Christ around the world, and when he attempts to evaluate the contribution made by Robert E. Speer, in our day and generation, toward the coming of the Kingdom of God, and the doing of the divine will on earth as it is in heaven, with gratitude to God for this noblest Christian leader of our time, the writer calls him "Saint Robert!"

**DR. JOSEPH A. VANCE, Minister**  
First Presbyterian Church, Detroit

Some men enrich us by what they say, and some by what they do, and some by what they are; but Robert E. Speer, during the forty-five years of an increasingly intimate and to me very dear friendship, has enriched my life in all three ways. What he has said has made me take more to prayer and to centering my religious life about the person of our Lord Jesus Christ; what he has done with his tireless and fruitful activity has inspired me to work and be ashamed of love of ease and bustle that is mere haste; and what he is has made me see increasingly the limitless growth of a man whose only ambition is to be God's tool. It has been fine, too, to see, old age giving a little more play to his sense of humor. May God raise up some young man to match him.

**DR. JOHN TIMOTHY STONE, President**  
Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago

Robert E. Speer will never retire from *active work* nor from the hearts of his friends. Nor can he ever retire from the far reaching influence of his life, writings and words. Only recently I read his last book, "The Meaning of Christ To Me" and was greatly benefited as I always have been on reading anything he has written. My personal friendship has been so close to him throughout the years that I hesitate to write of its instances save this, that when you have camped with a man and summered with him you know him through and through. We have been "into the woods" together and "out of the woods" together, even when we have been "forespent" with the burden of life's tasks and duties, but he always came out smiling and with a song of joy. The years have been stronger years, happier years and more useful years because I have had him for a friend. The mountain views have been more inspiring and the valleys less filled with shadow because of his companionship and affection. A eulogy would mean a long volume but a sentence may

evidence love as the sunbeam reveals the glory of the sun. This is just a word of affection to join countless others in their words of honor to this man who has always stood with pre-eminence for Christ and man.

**MISS MARGARET E. HODGE, Vice President**  
The Board of Foreign Missions

Robert E. Speer means much to the women organized for foreign mission work; his appreciation of their volunteer work and gifts of money for women and children in foreign lands was always evident. His clear vision and ready help in their desire for closer cooperation and organization were unfailing, and when the Assembly united the General and the Woman's Boards his welcome and recognition were spontaneous. This new relation gave many women the opportunity to know him as a man as well as a missionary leader admired at a distance. Often a delightful bit of humor would relieve the mental fatigue caused by a difficult problem and enable us all to go back to its consideration with clearer vision because of a hearty laugh. If there would ever seem to be a forgetting of the underlying spiritual principles involved Dr. Speer could be relied upon to bring us back to them. Any injustice to little children would stir him to the depths.

The fifteen minute daily noon prayers at "156" are a rare experience and when the leader happens to be Dr. Speer one can be quite sure that when he takes his Testament from his pocket and reads even the most familiar passage new light will come from his few words of comment. Those of us who have been at Lakeville conferences and have enjoyed the hospitality of the Speers in their home and garden and "study" in the transformed stable have learned anew the lesson that lives wholly devoted to the service of Christ can be radiant whether at work or at play.

Like a host of others in every continent this writer too, says: Thank God for Robert E. Speer.

**DR. ARTHUR H. LIMOUZE, Secretary**  
Board of National Missions

To me Robert E. Speer has always been my "Mr. Greatheart." Among the personalities who have influenced my life, serving as a check upon tendencies to lower ideals, and spurring me on to attempt great things for God, this beloved elder brother stands foremost. He touched my life first when as a freshman student in the chapel of New York University I listened to his Kingdom appeal made to us in the spirit of a noble exponent of Christ. He quietly affected me, when as a pastor of a church, seeking missionary facts and information, his writings fell into my hands and his sturdy letters reached my desk. He has been my constant ideal of a missionary prophet and statesman, making my own task in the Church, which once in describing the secretariat, he termed that of a "secondary worker," more significant in Christ's name. Mr. Greatheart, thank

you for the example of a triumphant faith and a Christ-like life. They have helped me.

### **DR. JOHN WILSON WOOD** **Protestant Episcopal Church**

One is ready to be rebellious at the thought of Robert Speer retiring from the official missionary service of the Presbyterian Church simply because the calendar says he has reached the retiring age. He is one of the men one would like to think of as living on indefinitely. In intellectual ability, capacity to get to the heart of any situation, clarity of vision, loftiness of purpose and spiritual power, he stands head and shoulders above the rest of us who have been glad to follow his lead these many years. One always felt sure that his conclusions were correct when they agreed with Dr. Speer's conclusions. As Robert Speer leaves the office he has filled so worthily for many years, the Presbyterian Church has my deepest sympathy. The one comforting thought is that his many gifts, and his versatility will, in manifold ways, still be at the service of his own church and all other communions.

### **DR. WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT** **Former Moderator of the General Assembly**

On the long tedious secretarial trails across this great country during the past fifteen years, I never met up with a more companionable travel partner than Robert Speer. Driving together through Idaho sage brush or riding long hot transcontinental stretches, with the exigencies of rising at dawn or riding out the night in coaches, his bouyancy of spirit, good humor and philosophic calm never left him. His love of nature and the cruder aspects of life as seen in men and mountains added to his wonderful capacity for companionship. I am prepared to say that the streams, hill sides and green pastures of heaven are going to be happier and lovelier spots of spiritual refreshment for my soul, because of anticipated, renewed contacts with the saved, but unchanged human personality of this my beloved friend.

### **MISS GERTRUDE SCHULTZ, Secretary** **Board of Foreign Missions**

Only those who work intimately with Dr. Speer in the family life of the Board of Foreign Missions can appreciate his keen sense of humor, his spirit of play and of loyal friendship. The annual staff dinner, which includes every member of the Board family from the shipping department in the basement to those on the eighth and ninth floors at 156 Fifth Avenue, is always a time of hilarious happiness with Dr. Speer as the ring-leader and favorite toastmaster and stunt performer. But the part of the Foreign Board family life which most clearly depicts Robert E. Speer is in connection with the daily noon prayer meeting. In this intimate fellowship we see most clearly his radiant faith, his close and intimate fellowship with our Lord, and from him we receive inspiration for deeper devotion and con-

secration to the cause to which he has given his life in utter devotion.

The women of the Presbyterian Church owe to Dr. Robert E. Speer a great debt of gratitude for his attitude toward the women of our Church. Dr. Speer has been exceptional in his appreciation of the service women have to render to our Church. He has believed in the intellectual and spiritual ability of women and has always respected them as equal partners in the great mission task of the Presbyterian Church. It is largely due to Dr. Speer's influence that the Board of Foreign Missions became a united board of men and women with equal vote and voice. The women of our Church pay loyal and devoted tribute to Robert E. Speer.

### **DR. JAMES A. KELSO, President** **Western Theological Seminary**

I retain a vivid memory of the occasion when I first heard Dr. Speer. It was in the chapel of Washington and Jefferson College in my sophomore year. His vigorous physical manhood and football record caught our imaginations and won a serious attention to his appeal, asking us to dedicate our lives to Christ and his service. His intellectual power and his transparent sincerity moved me and many of my classmates to dedicate our lives to Christ's service. My class (1892) numbered 37 on commencement day. Of that number, thirteen entered the ministry or foreign missionary service. Since that day Dr. Speer has grown to be one of the outstanding figures of world Christianity—a massive thinker, a brilliant and impressive speaker, and a missionary statesman. I often marvel at his achievements, and I congratulate him on this anniversary occasion on his far-reaching influence for the Kingdom of God. Let us thank God that he raised up such a man in our Church for the proclamation of the evangel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

### **C. DARBY FULTON, Executive Secretary** **Presbyterian Church in the U. S.**

The retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer from official service leaves many of us in the frame of mind that was Joshua's after Moses had gone. We have leaned so heavily on his leadership, and drawn so generously on his great resources of experience that we have acquired the habit of dependence on him. With amazing versatility Dr. Speer has met the varied demands of his exacting position. His ability to challenge youth, his clarity and power in public address, the broad scope of his missionary perspective, the mature and well-pondered character of his conclusions and policies, the depth of his convictions on the fundamental truths of Christianity and the faithfulness with which he has stood for them during the years—all these have combined to make him in the estimation of many incomparably the greatest Christian leader of the past thirty years.

1879

1879

It is a privilege to join with that great company throughout the Christian world who unite in doing honor to one who has held so long a preeminent place among us.

**DR. CHARLES R. ERDMAN, President**  
**The Board of Foreign Missions**

We proud Presbyterians are persuaded that our Robert E. Speer has done more for world missions than any other man of his generation. This we attribute not only to his native talents but to his ceaseless activity and to his unclouded faith. He has written more books in a lifetime than many of us could read in a year. He has mastered more books in a year than most of us could read in a life-time. His waking hours have been occupied chiefly in delivering public addresses, while asleep he usually has been on his way to his next appointment for speaking. As an unordained Presbyterian he has been our most prominent layman. As a Doctor of Divinity he has been the most in demand of our preachers. He retires from his duties as secretary of our Board with the extensive plans and the exuberant spirits of one who believes that life begins at seventy. He merits the gratitude and congratulations of all who cherish our Christian heritage and love our living Lord.

**DR. J. V. MOLDENHAWER, Minister**  
**First Presbyterian Church, New York City**

More successfully than most administrators of great affairs, Robert E. Speer has resisted the tendency of office-holding to diminish a man into a mere official. Neither his intelligence nor his goodwill has been contaminated by too close consideration of what we call ephemeristically the needs of the organization. We are glad to record the evidences afforded by these many years of a zeal which was personal and not secretarial. He had his characteristic way of dealing with missionaries, pastors, church officers and the large company of plain human beings, a way so unaffectedly friendly that no one could mistake it for common official urbanity. That is one of the reasons why men so eagerly received from him words of counsel and encouragement: those words were always spoken out of a sound mind and an understanding heart.

**DR. C. M. YOCUM**  
**Disciples of Christ**

When I first met Dr. Robert E. Speer it was in his capacity as a most effective missionary propagandist. I marveled then and I shall never cease to be amazed at his unmatched ability to marshal interesting information and accurately impart it to his audience, following a carefully prepared outline containing many points and do it without a single written note. Since then I have come to know him more intimately as a wise missionary administrator and educator and as a true friend and counselor. Dr. Speer's contribution to missions and to the Kingdom generally has been sec-

ond to none in his generation. He has more than merited retirement from active service, nevertheless we shall always regret that Ponce de Leon failed to find the fountain of perpetual physical youth and to direct Dr. Speer to its waters.

**American Board of Foreign Missions**  
**Congregational and Christian Churches**

The Prudential Committee of the American Board has learned of the retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer, for over forty-six years secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. We wish to express to our fellow Mission Board and to Dr. Speer our deep appreciation of his significant contribution to the missionary movement of the past half century and of the warm spirit of Christian comradeship that has always characterized his relations with the American Board. We also recall with gratitude the many services that he has rendered the American Board in various capacities during his years of fruitful service. We shall miss his leadership in interdenominational undertakings, but shall continue to think of him as active in behalf of the Cause.

**DR. STUART NYE HUTCHISON, Minister**  
**East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh**

When I was a small boy, before leaving home for preparatory school, a tall Princeton undergraduate came to our town to speak to a group of boys. His name was Robert Elliott Speer, and he left a memory in our minds and hearts which has never grown dim. Afterward in my own college days we heard Mr. Moody say at Northfield that Robert E. Speer was "the most-in-demand young man in Christendom." Other men have, after years of service and experience, risen to places of influence and usefulness in the church. Robert E. Speer ascended to the heights of leadership and distinction in the Christian world at the very beginning of his career, and there he has remained for a half century. No other man in the history of American Presbyterianism has served his generation with more conspicuous fidelity and ability.

**DR. WILLIAM P. SCHELL, Secretary**  
**Board of Foreign Missions**

The first address I ever heard Dr. Robert E. Speer deliver, about forty years ago, was on "Remember Jesus Christ." The most recent book from his pen is entitled, "The Meaning of Christ to Me." Far from being an accident or a coincidence, these are a striking illustration of the significance of Dr. Speer's whole life and service. During these more than forty years he has rendered a great service to the Presbyterian Church and to the Church of Christ throughout the world, for which it is impossible to express adequate gratitude; but his greatest contribution has been a humble, sacrificial, persistent devotion to Jesus Christ and a beautiful and consistent expression of the mind and heart of Christ in his own life and work. We who are associated

with him in the Board of Foreign Missions thank God that for so many years it has been our daily privilege to be intimately associated with such a Christian.

**DR. F. A. GOETSCH**  
Evangelical and Reformed Church

Dr. Robert E. Speer has been to me one of the great missionary heroes of the present age. His fine personal devotion to the cause of Jesus Christ, his absolute belief in the uniqueness of Christ, and his great sincerity have not only won my personal admiration, but have been helpful to me in my own missionary thinking and service. I have also often marveled at his splendid grasp of the missionary situation in all countries and am inclined in his case, more than in that of anyone I know, to accept his view as the correct estimate in every case. It is with the greatest regret that I contemplate the coming of a time when Dr. Robert E. Speer's influence will not continue to be exerted actively in the great foreign missionary enterprise.

**J. WILLISON SMITH**  
The General Council

Just ten years ago this month at San Francisco it was my privilege to nominate Dr. Robert E. Speer for the moderatorship of the General Assembly, and as an evidence of the confidence of the Church, received the unusual honor of being elected by acclamation. This action was a fitting acknowledgment of a splendid service rendered to the Church. Since then ten years additional service with an even broader experience has been rendered by Dr. Speer to the Church as senior secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions.

It is with regret that Dr. Speer will soon retire from the Board of Foreign Missions but fortunately his long devoted service of activity and accomplishment for the Church will continue to be appreciated.

**DR. HAROLD McAFEE ROBINSON, Secretary**  
Board of Christian Education

Of course my first remembrance of Dr. Speer, as I suppose is the case with many men of my generation, is of his incomparable gift as an advocate of the cause of foreign missions. Of all his public service to that cause the church is well aware. Perhaps the church does not know so well another side of him which came out the other day when we had a casual conversation about life in the New England woods. When I mentioned the great classic of the early days around Mt. Katahdin, such as Theodore Winthrop's "Life in the Open Air" and John S. Springer's "Forest Life and Forest Trees," I found him as interested as one of the boys for whom C. A. Stephens wrote his stories of life in the Maine woods.

**DR. HARRY CLAYTON ROGERS, Minister**  
Linwood Presbyterian Church, Kansas City

Dr. Speer is vividly remembered by me in connection with a visit which he made to McCormick Seminary,

speaking to our senior class of the year 1902. Dr. Speer was campaigning for foreign missions and spoke on the theme, "The Great Commission"—"Go ye into all the world." Out of that class, *Stead* went to Persia, *Pieters* went to Japan, *Clark* to Korea, *another Clark* to China, *McCluskey* to India, *Hall* to Syria, and others to other lands. This illustrates the impact of mind and heart made in all parts of the world by Robert E. Speer, one, who more than any other in two generations, called young men to God in all the world for Christ's sake and the gospel.

**DR. SAMUEL G. ZIEGLER**  
United Brethren in Christ

I feel under great obligation to your communion for having given to the Christian world and to the cause of Christian missions Dr. Robert E. Speer. I first heard him at Northfield thirty years ago. From that time to this he has been a constant inspiration to me. As members of the Foreign Mission Board we, too, feel a sense of obligation. He was so big that we felt he belonged to all of us. The whole missionary enterprise benefitted by his wise counsel and courageous leadership. We appreciate this privilege of expressing our love and esteem for a man whom we truly believe was sent of God.

**DR. J. W. HAWLEY**  
Methodist Protestant Church

Dr. Robert E. Speer came into my life many years ago while I was a student in Chicago. Ever since that time I have been inspired by his ministry to the world. His unexcelled qualities of mind and soul, his integrity of character, and his devotion to God have made him a worthy standard of life and conduct for all men. His understanding appraisal of human values and his devout Christian love make his retirement from active service a distinct loss to the entire Christian world.

**DR. W. B. ANDERSON,**  
The United Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church has a wise rule of retirement of its executive officers at an age limit. Dr. Speer is retiring only from his executive office. None of us can ever permit him to retire from his missionary activity and leadership. He lives too vividly in the affections of Christians the world around, and the pattern of his faith and devotion are too clearly woven into the fabric of the church to permit of that.

To those of his own student generation, he has continued to be an example of what a life pledged wholly to God might accomplish. To the missionaries in all lands, the simplicity of his missionary philosophy and his constancy to the gospel of Christ have been strengthening. In the counsels of missionary executives his comprehensive vision of the church's missionary task, his conclusive thinking, and his fearless loyalty to truth as he apprehended it have been a strong molding influence in the missionary work of every denomination.

To pastors and laymen everywhere, his devotion to Christ, his faith in God, his fearless witnessing and his generous friendship have been an inspiration to Christ-like life and service.

It is probable that in the United Presbyterian Church no missionary leader is more generally loved and trusted than Dr. Speer. Fortunately, from his good offices in this church he does not retire.

**DR. W. G. CRAM,**  
Methodist Episcopal Church, South

The Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as well as the Methodists of the south, wish to express the esteem in which they hold Dr. Robert E. Speer, for his many years of service as a missionary leader and administrator, in the missionary movement of North America during the past four decades. This period has perhaps been the most constructive of this great movement though it has been fraught with many problems that have been perplexing and difficult of solution. To the successful solution of the issues of this era, Dr. Speer has rendered conspicuous service. He has been a leader beloved. His counsels, we pray, shall continue with us for many years.

**DR. JOHN FINLEY,**  
The New York Times

If anybody speer\* at you  
And ask you if you ken  
One Robert Speer you'll say you do—  
And there's no speering better men.

\*Inquire about.

## A Memorial Day Prayer

By ROBERT E. SPEER

*Thanks be to thee, O God, that thy son, Jesus Christ our Lord, conquered death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. We praise thee for his assurance of thy house of many mansions, where he has prepared a place for us, that where he is, there we may be also. We bless thee for his promise to one of those who died beside him upon a cross, that he should be with him that day in paradise. We thank thee, above all, for our Lord's glorious resurrection from the dead, and for the sure hope of life with him for evermore. Wherefore we rejoice in this hour for those whom we have lost on earth, but who are now with thee. Though we sorrow for our loss, we bless thee for their infinite gain, knowing that for them to be with Christ is far better. By thy grace comfort our hearts with the thought of their safety and joy, and help us so to walk before thee in faith and love, that in thy good time we may be joined with them in thy heavenly presence evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—(The Book of Common Worship).*

## The Methods Of A Master

(Continued From Page 2)

class would be seen after meals lounging around, "bickering" with one another, while Dr. Speer always made for his room and his work. It requires real discipline of will thus to bind

"... the free

And holiday-rejoicing spirit down

To that dry drudgery at the desk's dead wood"

as Charles Lamb has put it. But as Dr. Speer has himself said, the only way he can keep his desk clear is to work in the evening, in addition to working during the day. His capacity to keep his desk cleared and to keep ahead of his work, has been won through a rigid exclusion of social and personal relationships.

### Information and Inspiration are Sought

A third method is that of continually filling his mind with information and sources of inspiration in regard to the tasks before him. Constant reading is for him both a duty and a joy. In an early book Dr. Speer wrote, "The young man's chief pleasure will come from reading." He sets before himself the reading of at least two books a week, and has found both pleasure and strength in that reading. He reads carefully the denominational papers, and no one is better informed on the contents of the religious press of his own church. A well-known minister has said the formula for successful preaching is, "To get your head full; your heart on fire; and let nature caper." Dr. Speer personifies this formula.

A fourth principle is to keep his thought and work on a level above that of petty and irrelevant arguments and animosities. Speaking to a missionary group one day, he said the greatest elements in missionary life were love and patience. A revealing sentence is contained in one of his books in which he is advising a man who is in perplexity as to the seeming unreality of the religious life. "Do not do wrong, thus avoiding remorse; will to love, thus winning peace." There have been many situations in Dr. Speer's nearly half century of service in which he could have easily and understandably dropped below the level of these principles. But one of the secrets of his power and influence has been his steadfast adherence to the ideals expressed in these words, the ideals of love and patience, that have made serene and radiant his own life and work.

I am not sure that Dr. Speer would agree to this analysis of certain principles that underlie his work. I have tried to describe them as they appear to one of his associates and friends.

### Dr. Speer's Rules for Public Speaking

We do have, in Dr. Speer's own words, precise and detailed statements of the methods he tries to follow in his work. His ability in public speech, and his freedom and power in that speech, without the help of manuscript or notes, are well known. About twenty years

ago he made an address on the topic, "How to Speak Effectively without Notes." He made certain practical suggestions, based on his own personal experience. In regard to the form of the address, he stated four essentials: "To have a definite aim; to state the subject in the form of a definite proposition; to arrange the propositions according to their relative strength and so work up to the climax; to make each point clear and not stay on it too long." As to the manner of speaking, he suggested: "Keep your eyes on the audience to which you are speaking; never waste thought on a gesture; talk straight ahead; eliminate all slang, and the shorter the words used the better."

Four final suggestions were: "We ought to read a great many books, good books, and fewer newspapers. To read the newspapers too much debauches the mind, and breaks its power to keep long on any one line of thought. Especially we must know the Bible and store it in our minds. We must be morally earnest in our lives in order to be morally earnest in our public speech. Do not imitate anybody else; do not try to adapt yourself too much to the personality of the audience to which you are speaking, that is, we should speak our convictions with kindness and tact and real love, but without any compromise, without any toning down. Finally, our hearts must be in it. There must be warmth and tenderness and love and self-forgetfulness."

### As to the General Spirit of One's Work

In regard to work in the office, and with reference to the general spirit of one's work, Dr. Speer, in an address fifteen years ago, called attention to certain principles of Archbishop Benson which one felt he had tried to carry out in his own life and work.<sup>4</sup> We had hanging up in our office for years four little rules of Archbishop Benson's. Almost every one noticed them. One day a man came through who read them, and he felt sure they must be only a fragment from something more and took pains to get the prayers of Archbishop Benson from which these four little rules hanging on our office walls were taken. Let me quote a few of them that we may ask ourselves whether our lives have been yielded to live under the eye of Christ and under his law of love.

"Not to be dilatory in commencing the day's main work."

"Not to murmur at multitude of business or shortness of time, but to buy up time all around."

"Not to groan when the letters are brought in: not even a murmur."

"Not to magnify undertaken duties by seeming to suffer under them, but to treat all as liberties and gladnesses."

"Not to call attention to crowded work or petty fatigues, or trivial experiences."

"Before censuring any one, obtain from God a real love for them. Be sure that you know, and that you allow all allowances which can be made. Otherwise how ineffective, how perhaps unintelligible, how perhaps provocative, your best-meant censure may be."

"Oh! bow well doth it make for peace to be silent about others, not to believe everything without discernment, and not to go on easily telling things."

"Heal the wounds which in time past my cruel and careless hands have made."

"Obedience' in secular life is strict conformity to its arrangements, as well as to rules of health, rest, kindness, which, when free from temptation, one resolves on."

"Not to seek praise, gratitude, or respect, or regard from superiors or equals on account of age or past service."

"Not to feel any uneasiness when my advice or opinion is not asked or is set aside."

"Never to let oneself be placed in favorable contrast with another."

"To make no remarks from answers to which self-satisfaction is highest; talking of self; seeming singular: hungering for conversation to turn on oneself."

"To seek no favor, no compassion: to deserve, not ask for tenderness."

"To bear blame rather than share or transmit it."

"To endure often, if one's innocence cannot be established without shame to another."

"When credit for my own design or execution is given to another, not to be disturbed, but to give thanks."

The carrying out of these high principles would involve tension and effort on the part of any man. There is such tension in the work and in the bearing of Dr. Speer. But those who think that he is not capable of relaxation, of enjoying or telling a good joke, or of taking part, on occasion, in slap-stick comedy, or of living days and nights in the open and in the woods and along the trout streams, does not know Dr. Speer. A little volume called "Owen Crimmins," the biography of an old guide and fisherman who accompanied Dr. Speer thirty-five years ago in fishing expeditions and camping in the Magalloway country in New England, is informing. The concluding paragraph of that biography throws a revealing light as well on Dr. Speer's love of the woods and of fishing and of his companions in the forest and along the streams. "Alas, the dear vanished and unreturning days! Under the fillet, as they passed, I never saw the scorn. And Owen is gone and the old woods that we knew are gone, and the fish are gone. But the memories will never go. Them, and the friendships enshrined in them, one keeps forever, to renew in the good fishing country in Paradise, where the rivers of water run, clear as crystal."

### The Author Concludes

These are some of the principles and methods of work of Dr. Speer, as they appear to a colleague and friend. Underlying all these detailed statements of standards and objectives, there is, I believe, a deeper current of life and power. What E. S. Martin wrote in an article some years ago is true of Dr. Speer; that he has a vitality that comes "not merely from ~~vitality~~ but from a living relationship with the energy that drives the stars"; and in an exceptional degree, he has lived out and incarnated the truth of the great words of St. Paul, the text of one of his characteristic sermons: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me."



New York Journal June 8 '37

### A DOMINANT LEADER

The Moderator and Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church United States of America have joined in a tribute to ROBERT SPEER, who for nearly a half-century has been the "dominant leader" in what is now the largest Foreign Mission Board in the world. It is agreed by these two highest officers of the church, temporary and permanent, that FRANCIS MAKAMIE was the outstanding Presbyterian personality in the Colonial period; that JOHN WITHERSPOON "epitomized" the influence and significance of this church in the Revolutionary period, reaching their culmination in the organization of the first General Assembly and the National Government; that CHARLES HODGE represented the highest scholarship and statesmanship of this church in the nineteenth century; and that ROBERT SPEER occupies a "towering position" in practically all the great evangelical Christian movements in the closing days of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth—so many years that he has reached the age of retirement. He will deserve a permanent place in the company of the great ecclesiastical statesmen of the earlier periods, it is believed. But it is the hope of all who know him that he will live on, though unofficially, ministering to a world that needs more than ever his counsel and his pervading influence. He has enriched humanity by what he is, by what he has said (and how he has said it) and by what he has done in pursuing and achieving the chief end of man.

St. Nicholas Rygel Columbus June 8, '37

### Today

We are more than honored in having as our guest Minister this morning Dr. Robert E. Speer, the General Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. This past week Dr. Speer has been deservingly honored by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meeting in Columbus in recognition of the completion of his most distinguished service of leadership in the Presbyterian Church. The whole enterprise of Christian missions in this generation turns instinctively around the name of Dr. Speer. Beyond all measure he has maintained in the life of the Christian Church an ever-continuing concern for the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord to the ends of the world. This morning we express our gratitude to him for that leadership in which our Church and denomination has profited. We give the assurance of our continued good will and gratitude to Dr. Speer and welcome him to our pulpit this morning.

Spear

THE LATIN AMERICAN MISSION  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUPERINTENDENT  
Vernon M. McCombs, D. D.



125 Marchessault Street  
Los Angeles, California

May 31, 1937.

Rev. Robert E. Spear, D. D.,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

Dear Doctor Spear:

May I add my thanks, praise and congratulations to you at this time when, as we say in Spanish, you are being "jubilado."

Personally, let me say that to your messages and challenge at Lake Geneva, Toronto and countless pages from your pen, I owe a major share in my definite missionary call as well as the moral and spiritual dynamic which God has given to this son of the log cabin and frontier.

Later, I served as president of the Minnesota and New Jersey State Student Volunteers, and three months as Student Volunteer College Secretary. How I was thrilled to visit your home town and College, Juniata! The four years in Peru till health broke saw the two mission stations increased to ten and we brought five Peruvian students with us to colleges in the United States.

The inclosed will tell of the growth from one station since coming to the home field. You perhaps saw "From Over the Border" of which 50,000 copies were sold.

I disgraced you by tardiness for my part at the Panama Congress because of a terrific migraine headache. You and John R. Mott stand out on the Coast Range of my life's horizon like soaring, snowy Mt. Shasta which we have just watched for hours from the Limited. I was returning from our Filipino home missions in the Northwest, where I used your illustration from the Philippine Islands, "Doctor, bring us a good word from Jesus Christ." Frankly, it has not been your theology nor ethics so much as the great qualities which your ethics and theology produced in you that awakened and galvanized us college folks whom you have impressed with God's glad, high call. I visualize you yet doing the greatest work of your life telling college folks how to poise for that stalwart leadership for which alone, I believe, God and the nations wait.

This immodest, confidential word is written to bring to you a sincere reminder of how many thousands of missionaries and millions of folks your life has lifted.

Gratefully and truly yours,

M/MH

Vernon M. McCombs

42 Claverick St. Providence  
R.I. June 4<sup>th</sup> 1937.

5

Dr Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Ave. New York

Dear Dr Speer:

After so long a time the  
name which signs this letter will  
mean nothing to you, unless I mention  
that for long years I was a member  
of the University Place Presbyterian <sup>Church</sup>,  
while Dr George Alexander was its  
pastor, and that I still hold my  
membership in the First Presbyterian  
Church in New York City, though  
not finding it possible to reside  
in that City now. But my

object in writing is to express the  
pleasure I feel in having just  
discovered through an article in my  
"Presbyterian," (published in Philadelphia)  
that September 10<sup>th</sup> is your birth-  
day, for that is my birthday too!  
though my September 10<sup>th</sup> occurred  
some years previous to yours; so  
you see I have the start of you, in  
longevity, (though in nothing else.)

I want to send felicitations on  
the zealous and valuable activities  
of yours, that has made us all  
your debtors, and most still for  
your loyalty to Jesus Christ our  
Lord and Saviour, in the troublous,  
unbelieving days which have  
fallen upon us. When I was

speaking to a young Presbyterian  
minister, recently, of my belief,  
found in Christ's own promises,  
of His coming again, he replied to  
me, "I will get one of Dr Spear's  
books and see if he believes Christ  
is coming again." And I was very  
glad he would ~~do~~ what I wanted  
him to find, ~~in~~ ~~it~~ ~~by~~ ~~it~~ ~~to~~ ~~there~~.

The young men look to you to  
stabilize their thinking! So many are  
looking to you for guidance, I  
am glad <sup>that</sup> on my September 10<sup>th</sup>  
I shall feel a special urge to pray  
for abounding blessings ~~for~~ ~~you~~,  
Dr Spear. With cordial greetings  
for Mrs Spear also, Very Sincerely  
Lydia S. Gould.

Heleen Judson

51

C. E. Spear

June 1, 1937

630 South Madison,  
Pasadena, California,  
June 1, 1937.

My dear Dr. Spear:

It was a great pleasure to have you with us at prayer meeting last week. All the pictures of the mission stations were interesting, and so much better than those that we have had before, for our annual School of Missions, but having you right there, to see and hear, was as important as all the rest.

That morning I had met an elderly member of our church, nearly blind, and not able to attend services, and she told me that you were to be at prayer-meeting and she did so wish that she could be there.

When I explained how you would be present, she was quite comforted, to think that she would not miss all that she had thought.

It is very hard to think of your retiring from the Board, ever, and I hope that you will still have a great deal

to say about what is to be done. We feel very safe with you there, no matter what dire things certain folk say about modern tendencies and changing ideas.

We met so many splendid missionaries here, and certainly we find none who seem lacking in great zeal for evangelism and a definite message of salvation.

What a joy it was to see the Lynses from Peking, last summer. They are certainly rare folk and I hope that they saw you in New York.



And the Gordon Shapman,  
of Japan last week, and then  
Mr. Myrtle Hinkhouse of Pootungfu.

It ought to keep our zeal for  
our part of the work at white  
heat, to see such representatives  
from the field.

With gratitude to God for giving  
you to the work, and affection  
from our hearts for yourself,

yours sincerely,  
Helena Judson.

JOHN S. DAWSON  
CHIEF JUSTICE  
W. W. HARVEY  
WM. EASTON HUTCHISON  
WILLIAM A. SMITH  
WALTER G. THIELE  
HUGO T. WEDELL  
HARRY K. ALLEN  
JUSTICES

E. E. CL  
S. E. EL

# The Supreme Court of Kansas

Topeka

June 5, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am delighted to join the vast number of your friends in congratulating you upon the wonderful work you have accomplished in the many years of services you have rendered the church as Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. I have read with great interest the many complimentary statements from exceedingly prominent men as published in the Presbyterian Banner last week concerning you and your wonderful work.

I only regret that the rules are so inflexible as to require your cessation from that work while you are still in health and superior ability to carry it on. It seems to me that some deviation could be made so that the church could have the benefit of your very superior knowledge and experience in those matters the balance of your life.

I am always glad to read of your visits to Assemblies, Synods and other places where your talks and instructions are so helpful, and I extend to you my very best wishes for continued help and service directly or indirectly for the great cause to which you have devoted your whole life.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. Easton Hutchison*

M.A. Matthews

First Presbyterian Church  
Seattle, Washington

air mail

in

June 8, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Board of Foreign Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

My dear Bob:

I came home quite sad because I could not avoid the consciousness -- a deep, penetrating consciousness -- that you are leaving the Council, leaving the Board, separating from us in the official life of the Church.

It will be peace and happiness for you, but loneliness and a sense of grief for us. I love you, Bob, and I hate to see you go.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

M.A. Matthews

# Central Bureau for Relief of the Evangelical Churches of Europe

The American Office of the Central Bureau operates under the joint auspices of the American Section of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work, and the Federal Council of Churches.

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*File*

R. E. Speer

UN10 437

June 9, 1937.

S. \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Speer:

My endorsement of the just and kindly things said about you in the N.Y. Times the other day will not add greatly to the weight of the truth that is in them, but I want to say that I knew it right along!

I can speak with some authority, however, when I say that your presence on the Foreign Missions Board of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. has been a tower of strength to the harassed Protestants of continental Europe, an ever ready "refuge in time of trouble."

Gratefully yours,

*W. H. Foulkes*  
Secretary

Stuart R. Oglesby

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WASHINGTON STREET, OPPOSITE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GA.

E

STUART R. OGLESBY  
PASTOR

June 10, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer:

Having just read the editorial in the New York Times, issued June 8th, entitled, "A Dominant Leader," I feel that I must avail myself of the privilege of writing you just a note of appreciation.

We, in the South, have felt that you were not only leader of the cause of Foreign Missions in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., but the true leader of all Presbyterians in the United States. We are deeply grateful to God for your gracious and consecrated leadership during the past decades. And now that your active service has come to an end, we rejoice that you are receiving due recognition from the Church and the nation at large, and we trust that we may have the influence of your ripened Christian experience throughout the Church for many years to come.

We thank God for Dr. Robert E. Speer and trust that He may raise someone up to carry on the work which you are laying down.

Yours faithfully,

Stuart R. Oglesby.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 - 5th Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

*Jerry*

**AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS**

INCORPORATED 1912

14 BEACON STREET      BOSTON, MASS.

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**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
HERBERT E. B. CASE

June 11, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

It is almost impossible for me to think of you as retiring from your position as a Secretary of the Presbyterian Board, for you have been identified with the missionary movement since my own first vital contact with it in the late nineties.

Vivid memories come to me of a student conference at Northfield in 1898 when your leadership brought inspiration. From its beginning you have been in the very heart of the modern missionary movement. By your books, by your addresses, by your leadership in mission councils, by your wise administration, and by your personal contacts with Christian leaders around the world your services to this great cause have been beyond all power to describe or evaluate.

It is with a great sense of personal loss that I think of your retirement. I shall miss more than I can say your warm handclasp and your leadership. Nevertheless, the dominant thought in my mind is one of rejoicing in the great service that you have been privileged to render through these years of remarkable missionary development.

By all that we know of you I am assured that the period that lies before you will not be one of retirement from active Christian leadership and I look forward to further opportunities for fellowship and to the inspiration of the writing that you will surely do, continuing to bring to us all the rich results of your experience and of your mature reflections.

With warm best wishes and deep respect and affection,

Sincerely yours,

*Alden H. Clark*

Alden H. Clark

Dr. William P. Scholl, complying with the request of the Executive Council at its last meeting, reported on the General Assembly, giving a detailed and most interesting description of the meeting which he said was the best of the many Assemblies that he has attended. He also stated that the Rev. Wm. Hiram Foulkes, member of the Board, was the best Moderator he had known. The above opinions were concurred in by others who had attended the Assembly.

Dr. Erdman then read a resolution of the General Assembly in regard to Dr. Speer and his retirement from the Board as follows:

"Your Committee deeply regrets to announce the approaching retirement of Dr. Robert E. Speer on the 10th of September, 1937, when he reaches the age of 70. Dr. Speer became a secretary of the Board at the early age of 24, and consequently has given his entire life to the cause of foreign missions as a secretary of our Board. Dr. Speer's powerful personality looms so large, not only in the history of our own Board, but also in the history of Protestant Missions during the past 50 years, that it is impossible to estimate his contribution, within the limits of a paragraph. We can, however, mention his chief contributions: He has been one of the most successful of recruiting agents, for his name has exercised a magic influence on the youth of our colleges. His eloquence, supported by his massive intellect has compelled both the church and the world to give serious heed to the missionary appeal, while his wise and sober judgment has won for him a recognition as one of the leading missionary statesmen of the age. We are glad to think that after his retirement the Presbyterian Church may still look to him for counsel and guidance when difficult problems arise in the sphere where he is a master. We assure him today of the appreciation and affection of the Presbyterian Church. His name is enshrined in our hearts and our earnest prayer goes up to our Heavenly Father that he may be long spared to us in health and strength."

This resolution was adopted as a resolution of the Board.

*Phillips Acad. Andover, Mass. July 1937*

1886

TALCOTT M. BANKS, Secretary  
Williams Inn, Williamstown, Mass.

Dr. Robert Elliott Speer, one of our most eminent members, retired last month from the post of Senior Secretary of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. He has served as a member of this Board for 48 years. He has traveled all over the world in the interest of missions, has written many books, and has been for many years a preacher of power and eloquence. He is to make his home in Salisbury, Connecticut.

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## 私立金陵大學

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
NANKING, CHINA

INCORPORATED BY THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK OFFICE  
 150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

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 AND ASSISTANT TREASURER  
 C. A. EVANS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND  
 ASSISTANT TREASURER

June 15, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
 156 Fifth Avenue  
 New York City

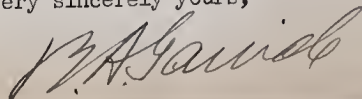
Dear Dr. Speer:

May I transmit to you the following action taken by the Board of Founders of the University of Nanking at their Annual Meeting on the afternoon of May 13th, 1937:-

"RESOLVED that it is with sincerest regret that the Board of Founders of the University of Nanking reluctantly accepts the decision of Dr. Robert E. Speer that he should retire from the Presidency of the Board. The Board gratefully remembers how loyally and how ably Dr. Speer has served the interests of the University of Nanking as a member of this Board since it was first established in 1910. He was one of the leaders in effecting the organization of the Board, served as its first regular chairman during the months of organization, and was instrumental in persuading Mr. Louis H. Severance to accept the presidency of the Board in 1911. Upon the death of Mr. Severance in 1913, Dr. Speer was elected President of the Board, and has served continuously in that capacity for the last twenty-four years. It is the earnest hope of the Board that even though Dr. Speer feels he should retire from its presidency, he will long continue to serve as one of its active members."

You know, I am sure, that every member of the Board of Founders regrets most sincerely that you feel you should retire from the Presidency of the Board. They confidently rely, however, upon your continuation in active service as the Honorary President of the Board. We know that in this capacity you will add still further to the invaluable contribution of leadership and service which you have given to the Board and to the University over more than a quarter century.

Very sincerely yours,





Pastor  
J. V. MOLDENHAWER

Assist  
MARTIN D

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CHURCH OFFICE • 12 WEST 12th STREET  
Telephone: ALgonquin 4-5946

Y

June 16, 1937

Mrs. Robert E. Speer  
24 Gramercy Park  
New York, N. Y.

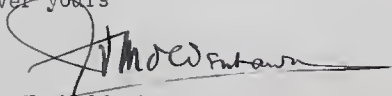
Dear Mrs. Speer:

Many thanks to you for sending me the copy of the order of service for next October. I shall keep this for my reference and guidance as the time draws near. Meanwhile, after conversation a couple of weeks ago with Miss Cushier I set apart on my calendar here October 27 to 31 for the great celebration.

It promises to be a great anniversary. The one deep regret that is felt by me and by thousands of others is the fact that this will mark also the time of Dr. Speer's official retirement from the work to which he has contributed so immeasurably since his early youth. I can at least be sure of this, that there are very few men who have deserved as well of their church and their times as he has.

With affectionate greetings and good wishes

Ever yours

  
J. V. Moldenhawer

JVM AM

University of Dubuque

DUBUQUE, IOWA

June 22, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Secretary Board of Foreign Missions,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:- On March 19, 1937, you were kind enough to send me a copy of your book THE CHURCH AND MISSIONS. I fear I have not even written you a THANK YOU letter for it. During the school year I just had my hands too full to read the book, but now, as one of my first vacation jobs I have read it, for review, together with Brown's HUNDRED YEARS, and with Machen's (!) CHRISTIAN VIEW OF MAN. That should start me on a save vacation.....

Now allow me to express my sincere thanks for the book and its message and your kind remembrance of me. Like all your other writings this book will go forth on its mission and help to a better understanding of the great task the Master has given His Church. I am thankful that all though my ministry of now over 40 years, I have had the missionary cause uppermost in my heart and mind and so I intend to keep it.

May I also, on this occasion, join my voice with the hosts of others in appreciation of your outstanding work for the cause for now half a century. You have been an inspiration to untold numbers, and I am glad the Gen'l Assembly expressed itself as it did. When with the mission leaders in Germany, 1913-14, I heard on every side two American names: John R. Mott and Robert E. Speer. They were the two names in whom they had unbounded confidence. Rightly so. May the good Lord spare you still many a year and give you a blessed and peaceful eventide. I am sure Ps. 92:14 will find fulfilment in your life.

Paul wrote about the fine missionary dinner of June 14. He was greatly interested to see so large a company and to meet some of them personally. You know, he is an interne in Bellevue Hospital.

With best personal wishes and earnest prayers for  
God's blessing upon you,  
I am, Yours faithfully,

W. C. Laube

June 11th, 1937

My dear Uncle Rob:

Aunt Clara was so thoughtful as to send me a copy of "The Presbyterian Banner" for May 27th with the nice article and statements about your work. Almost no man has had the long and honorable career you have had. And certainly no one has such warm feelings of affection from people everywhere. The headmaster of the Staten Island Academy told me his mother read, until her death recently, your book about "The Man Christ Jesus" every night before going to sleep and kept it on a table beside her bed.

We three send you our love and heartfelt congratulations. But I know it is no end to your work but only the beginning of more work.

Affectionately,

Peggy

MISS CLARA MCMURTRIE  
HUNTINGDON  
PENNSYLVANIA

June 7, 1937.

Dear Robin:-

I really think I am  
more elated than you are with  
the well deserved praise that  
was given you at the assembly.  
My feathers are still standing up.

If I do not amount to much  
myself - it is a joy to know me  
of my best loved ones amount -  
to a great deal and has done  
so much in the world - It  
does seem that matters are  
clearing up - Dr. Wecker's going  
seems to have helped a lot.

I shall always be glad to have  
you come here, at any time.  
All you have to do is come.

My garden has been at its best  
The Peonies & Lilies are getting over  
but Roses are coming.

After Watson's accident and that  
he has come back and is

WLB/HW

P.S. From the papers I see you are retiring from the secretaryship of your board. I regret this more than I can tell and I hope it is not because you are sick. I take this occasion to say that, though I have never come in close

## SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

REV. WILLIAM L. BURDICK, *Corresponding Secretary*

*Drawer D—Ashaway, Rhode Island*

personal touch with you, you have been for many years a great help and inspiration. Your farsighted Christian statesmanship, demonstrated in your administration, addresses and writings, has caused many of us to rely more on you than any other man of our generation.

W.L.B.

Dear Tho. R. Good

R. E. Speer

UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PARK AVENUE  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

JUL 8 - 1937

THOMAS R. GOOD, MINISTER

Ans. RESIDENCE  
178 PARKWOOD-BOLLEVAARD

July 9. 37.

My dear D. Speer

Thanks for your cordial letter. While I regret that we cannot hope to have you with us this Fall or winter, it is not, I can see now, such a reasonable thing to hope for it - After fifty years of such service as you have given, it is surely in the interest of the wider interests of the Church - as well as of your own personal needs, that you should, at long last, feel entirely free to come and go, and choose your daily tasks without the pressure of assigned duty. Some things come best when the bow is relaxed, and I have a hopeful expectation that God may choose to give you the years, and the health,

UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PARK AVENUE  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

THOMAS R. GOOD, MINISTER  
RESIDENCE  
1178 PARKWOOD BOULEVARD

to give to posterity something of the grace  
and wisdom which many of us who know you  
now, will carry through life as a glowing memory.  
Wherever you are, and whatever you do, your  
friends will think of you with grateful affection,  
and deep down in our hearts will be an  
unspoken prayer that God's blessing will  
continue to be with you according to the  
riches of His wisdom and grace.

Gratefully your friend  
Thomas R. Good

D. Robert E. Speer.  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York.



*Rev. Stephen J. Corey*

# THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A Board of Missions and Education

MISSIONS BUILDING, 222 DOWNEY, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



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C. W. PLOPPER, Treasurer  
MISS HAZEL I. SCOTT, Secretary

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
Telephone IRvington 1166

*JTC*

**R. E. Speer**

July 10, 1937

JUL 14 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, New York.

My dear Robert:

I am not sure that I acknowledged your kind note concerning my book, "Beyond the Statistics." Your letter came to me a long time ago, and I have been very busy and away from the office much of the time so that personal correspondence has been delayed.

I read the two pamphlets which you sent with very great interest. They are excellent resumés of the missionary work accomplished, and the note of real trends for the future. I enjoyed your address at the Foreign Missions Conference very much indeed. Dr. Schell has sent me a copy of the program for the retreat which was held at your lodge. It is very suggestive. ~~Indeed~~. I can sense what the Presbyterian Board is going through at this time, with you and Dr. McAfee about to withdraw from active service.

Besides leading your own foreign missionary work in a most masterful way, you have been a great inspiration to thousands of us who have loved you and profited beyond measure by your books, addresses, and your dauntless spirit. As you become relieved of the very heavy load you have borne for so many years I trust that your strength will be undiminished for some of the tasks you have longed to do in an additional way.

With every good wish.

Affectionately yours,

*Stephen J. Corey*

SJC:  
a-k5

THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
LUTHERAN CHURCH HOUSE  
39 EAST THIRTY-FIFTH STREET  
NEW YORK

July 3, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
24 Gramercy Park  
New York, N. Y.

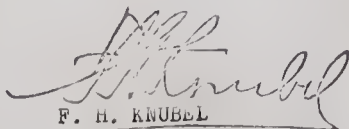
Dear Dr. Speer :-

It was fine of you to send your friendly letter after you had received a copy of the little book I sent to you. Your letter prompts me to send this little reply because I have been wishing to express my thoughts of you since I noted the fact of your permanent retirement from your general secretaryship in foreign mission work. Let me assure you that I am just one of the great multitude who thank our Lord that He gave you to us all in this service you have fulfilled.

It is my full persuasion that you will continue to think and write and speak of this service, even though, from a formal point of view, you have retired. Please continue to give us the results of your long prayer and study and experience.

With my heart's truest greeting, I am

Faithfully yours,

  
F. H. KNOBEL

FRK:MMG

43

1029 Downer Place,  
Aurora, Ill.,  
July 3, 1937.

Dear Dr. Speer,

It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity, with the other workers in Iran, of telling you that I rejoice greatly that, through all the years on the field, I have had your counsel and help.

Your letters have been full of inspiration and the words of confidence and faith in God have so often come at just the time I seemed to need them in an especial way. Your visit to Hamadan gave me the opportunity of knowing you as I had never known you before and one expression you used, as you discussed the problems, has remained through the years and has helped me again and again: "We must hold on through prayer."

It was an especial privilege to have your messages to General Assembly this year. I shall hope more constantly to "walk with Christ, to talk with Christ, and to learn of Christ as did the disciples of old", for you presented that intimate relationship with our Master if our lives are to be one with Him.

I hope there will be many other letters and many other messages during the years to come for we shall need your help and your

prayers. Though the relationship will, of necessity, differ from the past, we shall always feel that you belong to Joan and to us who work there.

With every good wish for you and for Mrs. Speer and prayers for God's blessing upon you both,

Very sincerely yours,  
Florence E. Murray.

FM

Comfort  
and  
Missions

With thanks  
to Doctor Robert C. Speer  
for the inspiration  
of his words and life.

# I Still Have God.

If I should lose my property -  
My home, and all I own;  
If I should lose all earthly friends,  
And here be left alone,

Chorus:

I still have God!

I still have God!

To keep me in his love;  
And give me, when my work is done,  
His boundless joy above.

If I should have no food to eat,  
No water for my thirst;  
No place to sleep, or bitter night,  
And things are at the worst,

If all the persons round about  
Are persecutors cruel,  
Or vile and blasphemous in life,  
And know no law or rule,  
If accident should cripple me,  
Or make me deaf, or blind,  
If not a drop of earthly good  
My tested soul can find,

Read chorus after each verse.

ERE.

# The Gospel In The Flag.

Since Christian truth and light  
have made  
Our land so glad and free,  
of Christian meaning in the flag  
Should every person see.

The crimson stripes speak of the  
love  
which God has shown to men,  
In sending down his Son to die,  
That we might live again.

The white stripes speak of pardon,  
which God, through Christ, will give;  
and of the life of righteousness  
which he would have us live.

The blue and stars mean Heaven,  
Eternal home above  
for those who, looking up to God,  
accept his saving love.

Then, underneath the stars and stripes  
Let us rejoice in God;  
and pray and work to bring  
all men  
to Him, and his abode.

CHEESMAN A. HERRICK  
CHIPPEWA BAY  
NEW YORK

7/26/37

Ans<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Rolt, E. Speer,  
156 21st Ave.,  
New York.

My dear Robert:-

July is drawing to a close, and I  
fancy you may be on vacation in  
August. I am of the mind (at 20  
discontinue your regular service on  
Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, and I want to write a parting  
word and thank you for your many  
courtesies and personal considerations in  
the years during which I have been  
privileged to have a small part in  
the great task to which you have  
given so much.

I can but regard service on the  
Board of Foreign Missions as one of the great-  
est opportunities of my life, and the  
chance to work with you on that Board  
and in other activities of the Church  
is a priceless fellowship. I am  
regretful that I cannot be present for



the "family party" in Sept. when the Board  
seeks to honor Mrs. Spear and yourself. I am  
doing this the Board only honors itself.

I know that while life lasts, your inter-  
est in I suppose Missions will not lessen, nor  
your ardor cool. You are still a Secretary,  
and without portfolio, as you can now see  
best your work, and do the tasks which  
promise the greatest usefulness. Having  
recently been released from the routine  
of a fixed position I can appre-  
ciate a little of the new freedom  
which you will have.

You can now do some of the tasks  
you have long wanted to do. I rejoice  
that Mrs. Spear is spared to enter on  
this new experience with you, and I pray  
that you both may have many years of  
fruitful labor, and abiding satisfaction.

With affectionate regards,

Yours faithfully  
Chester A. Herrick

CENTRAL DISTRIBUTING DEPARTMENT  
OF THE MISSION BOARDS OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

*HS*

July 27th, 1937

C. D. D.

Dr. Speer

Excerpt from letter received July 26th, 1937 ( Central Distributing Department )

Dear Sirs:

"I had the joy and pleasure of being elected commissioner to the Pennsylvania Synod-Grove City-Penna. June, 14--19, 1937. I heard many of the leading ministers of our church, including the moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. William Foulkes, Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr, and other outstanding speakers, but I got the thrill of my life when I heard The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. His lecture on Foreign Missions was easily the outstanding address of the Synod. Incidentally he traced his lineage back to the land of Rabbin Burns. Instinctively I realized where Dr. Speer derived his Passion and Consecration. Ayrshire ought to be proud of her noble son. When I was a lad I heard father say " Ayrshire-Famed for stalwart men and Handsome Lassies". Dr. Speer is gallant lad and a worthy sire."

signed

William Hamilton

West Leisenring, Penna.

*Presbyterian Journal June 37*

Robert E. Speer *Foreign*

For half the history of the Board of National Missions Robert E. Speer has been identified with its work. This Assembly was the climax of his long service. He was without question the dominating figure of the week.

Box 174

Glendale, Ohio. July 29th. 1937.

My dear Doctor Speer: -

Your kind and gracious letter apropos of my Eightieth Birthday Anniversary is highly prized, and I thank you heartily for it.

In common with millions of Christians, of all branches of the Church Universal, I long have held you in highest esteem, and I regret that a date has been set, by a somewhat questionable rule, for your retirement from official leadership in our Board of Foreign Missions. We in America have much to learn from Great Britain that kept Gladstone as Prime Minister at eighty-five and beyond that age. However, I am sure hosts of us will still look to you, I trust for many years, for continued inspiration in the cause to which your life has been consecrated.

I recall that Judge Holmes at ninety said to a friend who was lamenting when his own birthday at seventy was arriving that he rated him as a youth, exclaiming, "What would I not give to be seventy and have twenty years still to live."

With the accumulated momentum of your swift pace through past years you are sure to go on and on, and by voice and pen continue your inspired leadership in winning the world to Christ. God grant it.

I recall vividly hearing you speak before our Assembly in your splendid youth, and many times since, and always with stirred and stimulated heart and will for the Great Cause.

Providence is kind to me in that I have good health, with none of the frequent bodily troubles time brings to many octogenarians, with my lot cast among tried friends, and with my suc-

cessor in the Glendale pastorate the gifted and most lovable William H. Hudnut Jr., with whom I go along joyously, helping when so invited, while attending to my own work as he ably serves the Church.

I recall with delight your visit here a few years ago when you spoke in our Church in a series of addresses arranged for by our Pastor.

With hearty thanks for your most kind letter, and regret that we could not welcome you in person to our celebration,

Faithfully, *Calvin Dill Wilson*

Calvin Dill Wilson  
Pastor Emeritus

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156 FIFTH AVE NYK=

*MS*

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION THE SYNOD OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLED AT LAKETAHOE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR ROBERT E SPEER AND HERewith SENDS HIM LOVE AND GREETINGS STOP FOR YOUR YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL UNTO GOD=

*R. E. Speer*

M. K. W. HEICHER.

JUL 30 1937

Ms. A. 1. 11 (Reimay Court  
Pasadena, Calif.)

July 26<sup>th</sup> '37

JUL 30 1937  
Dear D. Speer;

Although a bit late, I  
am proceeding just a note, as  
one of many retired mission-  
aries in Pasadena, who regret  
that your seventieth birthday  
could not be delayed for many  
years to come.

Having known your wonderful  
service as one of the Secretaries  
of our Foreign Board for many  
years, we know you will not  
be a "silent partner" in our  
Board rooms at 156 Fifth Ave.  
I cannot imagine you as

as inactive -

The great cause so dear to us lies too near your heart.

Then too, we feel sure the Board will rejoice that you are still vigorous in health and available for advice on the many problems before them. Truly there are troublous times throughout the world..

Naturally, those of us retired workers from China are filled with forebodings, as daily cablegrams indicate that Japan is determined to carry out the plans she has long had in mind, to gain control of North China.

My daughter and I wish to extend  
to you your best wishes for many  
more years of splendid service in  
behalf of the Cause we all love —

Very sincerely

Florence W. Tilton

Ans 4-37

DR. JAMES W. MCKEAN  
480 WEST SIXTH STREET  
CLAREMONT, CALIF.

August, 30, '37

My dear Robert;

The days of your retirement begin soon. No doubt you are flooded with letters of appreciation and thanks

What further can one say than has been said so fully and forcibly and affectionately in the remarkable issue of the Banner of May 27.

I need not attempt to express my my own regard for you and my gratitude to you - and to God - for what you have done to me in all these years.

May the coming years be filled with peace, joy and abundant opportunities for continued service. My hearty good wishes and my prayers shall follow you so long as I live.

Ever affectionately,  
Dr. James W. McKean

Robert, E. L. ...

150 ...



Adm. Dr. Speer:-

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time, but there have seemed many things to hinder my doing the things which were pressing on my mind. Now I am having a chance to get caught up with some of my correspondence, and again your name comes to my mind as one of those to whom I wish to write. Our hearts are full of sadness these days as we think of all the changes in the Board Rooms, and think of the familiar faces and friends whom we will miss when again we go on furlough, and first and foremost of all we think of you. When I first tho't of going to India you were the Secretary for India, and I can never forget the help and inspiration which you were to me in those days, and even more so in all the years since. It just seems almost inconceivable to think of going back there and not finding you in the offices, and not to receive your inspiring letters.

It has been a great sorrow to us that these last years of yours in the Board have been saddened by the bitter controversies in the Churches, and the accusations made against the Board and its missionaries. We can never forget your splendid loyalty to the missionaries on the field, nor what you have suffered and endured on our behalf. Like myself, I suspect that many have been very dilatory or remiss in expressing their appreciation of all this, but I can assure you that it has not been because we have not felt it. And your loyalty to us has inspired us to a new loyalty to the Board, which I trust will bring forth fruit in the future. I know that it is impossible for us to realize all that this has meant to you in suffering and sorrow, but we do appreciate something of it.

I shall be coming home next year, and shall hope that even tho you are not in the Board Rooms to welcome us, we shall at least have many opportunities to meet and hear you. I wish I could put on paper all that your life and work have meant to me, but I do not seem capable of doing so. With most grateful appreciation, I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

Mary B. Helm

CORREO AEREO

*Florence E. Smith*

*Oct 21 1937*

Casilla 811, Santiago, Chile,  
August 23rd, 1937.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Mr. Speer:

Just a little note to tell you how sorry I am that the time for your retirement from active service in the Board has arrived. This may sound heartless, but the Board Rooms will not seem the same place to many of us with you away, and the Board letters will not mean so much. But I know what a relief it will be to you to have your time free for the many other tasks you have planned against this day.

I remember so very distinctly that day long ago (1895) when you took me, the rawest of new recruits, out to your home in Elizabeth to spend the night after my grilling interview with the Executive Committee. You will have forgotten all about it, but I never shall. I was so impressed by your courtesy to the elevator boy at "156" and to the little maid (named Delia) who opened the door; and the way men got up to offer you their seats in the train and got off the sidewalk to let us pass, made me think I must be going home with a very great personage indeed! And then it was my first glimpse of Emma, and I thought her the most beautiful woman I had ever seen -- and I have never changed that opinion. Going in on the train the next morning, you bought me a magazine as a gentle hint not to talk, and told me how you managed to get in an hour and a half of solid reading every day, going back and forth on the train. I think I have never grown so much intellectually and spiritually in any twenty-four hours since!

My own retirement is only three years off now (September, 1940), and I hope to be able to hold out at my present job until then. With all good wishes for long and happy years ahead for you and Emma,

Ever most gratefully yours,

*Florence E. Smith*

R. E. Speer

AUG 10

'Caklands', Sandown  
August 4<sup>th</sup> 1937

My dear - dear Dr. Speer

First, to thank you for Copus 2 - "A Foreign Missionary Appeal", and your loving charge to President McKay - I had read both with deep interest, but until this morning had not read yr Address on "Some Changing and Unchanging Things in Foreign Missions". All but a few sentences of this address have gone to the bottom of my heart with comfort and thanksgiving and of these sentences I may write you in another line.

This may be my last letter to you as our Secretary when you pass out of your long, loving ministry as the Pastor of so many of us, you sharing our joys and sorrows & problems. I had thought of the years which may yet stretch before you and that it might be given to you to write of your meditations on the Prayers of our Lord - his prayers for you the source of your life: but who am I to suggest which words out of the Golden Rule of Mauna" you should take to find the Church of Christ the world over far and wide in these days of her desperate need of that Mauna.

And now I lay down my pen and look up and up and give thanks afresh that the Chief Shepherd brought me into this Missionary fold - one of its rich blessings to have your love and fellowship all these forty years and on up to this day. Yours, with love and ever deepening appreciation of this fellowship - J. J. Gucas.

7  
Oa Lando,  
Lambour, C.P. India.  
August 5<sup>th</sup> 1937.



Q31

My dear Dr. Speck,

This is just a  
note to express congratula-  
tion upon your obtaining  
the "Three score years and ten"  
and by reason of strength  
may God grant you the  
full four score!!

It is hard to feel that  
it is right for you to be  
retired from '56. It seems  
to me you could not have  
should not be spared.

But the relief from the  
heavy burdens these will  
give to the Church, perhaps  
even some of your time

and wise counsel,  
I do thank you  
for your many  
years of wonderful letters.  
I am a little more than  
~~ten~~ nine years your senior  
as I celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> year  
on July 12<sup>th</sup>. My wife has  
fallen in pleasant places,  
near "I have a good heritage."  
In this beautiful home  
of my oldest friend in India,  
Father Lucas, son of the same  
mother, from the Edmund  
Lucas family too, I spend  
my summers. This year I  
was with the Goheens in Ven-  
gurla; from January to Apr. 15,  
then I have drove one 700 miles  
from South India to Kadai Kanai,  
where I was with her & then with  
Dr. Gokul, till June 21<sup>st</sup> - when  
I made the four days' journey  
back here. I hope to go to the

Centonia in Louisiana, i.e.,  
The visit of Amytae, her and  
her husband Vernon Jackson,  
of Little Rock, Ark. Last winter  
was a great visit to us all.

Their daughter was married  
in New York, shortly after they  
landed, (Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>) as you doubtless  
heard; and the younger son -  
Khea Ewing Jackson, on June 24<sup>th</sup>  
in Little Rock - that being his  
parents' 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary,  
and my 58<sup>th</sup>!

On my way back from Kodak,  
Irene Frost Rose, a dear little  
lady little son, came for a  
half-hour visit with me  
at the Virginia Station. She  
had only returned from a  
month in Kashmir, & looked  
glowing and glad.

With love, please give my warm  
love to your dear wife.

1937  
GULF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

August 25, 1937

Doctor Robert E. Sneer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Doctor Sneer:

While I was aware of the fact that you were retiring this fall, I did not know the exact date for this step. I therefore regret very much that I shall not have the privilege of seeing you to express to you personally my good wishes for this well-earned rest.

It is only human to say that to those of us who have such great respect and deep affection for you ~~that~~ our Board of Foreign Missions will never be the same as when you were there. Ever since I can remember, namely, for the last forty years, whenever I thought of our Board of Foreign Missions I thought of you. I know this is true of thousands of others in our denomination and outside of our denomination, *too*.

I hope that your retirement from the routine work will mean more time devoted to writing, and I shall look forward with a great deal of pleasurable anticipation to the many volumes which will come from your home "in the country."

I need not say to you my great appreciation of your gracious courtesy towards my father and myself in these many years. I have such faith in you and respect for you that I ~~do~~ not dare write you even a line in the great sorrow that came to you and Mrs. Sneer.

You have been to me an inspiration ever since I saw you in your office the latter part of September, 1910 when you were so kind and so encouraging to a lonesome boy who had come from far off Persia to seek an education. The only way that I know of to repay the debt to you and to the whole work of the Board is to make the church with which I am connected my supreme interest. This I have tried to do in the past and I shall continue to do so in the future.

I shall follow your kind suggestion to call on Doctor E. W. Dodd who I understand knows my father, and also on Doctor J. L. Dodds, your successor.

It is also my hope that you and Mrs. Speer will spend some of your winters in the southern part of Florida where as you know we have a climate that is not only pleasurable but full of many interesting aspects. It reminds me so much of Urumia.

With kindest regards and best wishes for future years,

Very cordially yours,

*John*  
John B. Keena,  
Manager

T.B.K.:D

*House for Keena in later - Oppo Bulletin Centennial No. June 1937*

Dr. Speer will go down in Board annals, as far as the clerical staff of those days is concerned, as always dropping his correspondence when a band came marching by, especially on St. Patrick's Day. And how he loved ice cream! When the Ten Years After Circle had its annual blow-out, if it chanced to be at "156" and Dr. Speer was around, he was treated to ice cream and cake. That was a proof of our regard for him which has never waned.



In the good old days ice cream was not as plentiful as now, and it was a great treat. Dr. Speer has always risen to the occasion. I well recall one fearfully hot summer day. I was taking dictation from him and getting horribly sleepy. He saw it, the dictation had to go on, so he began to intone what he said. Of course there was nothing else to do but laugh, and after we had enjoyed some minutes of this very novel way of writing letters we were both awake.



07

Casilla 2004, Valparaiso, Chile.

July 17, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York.

Dear Dr. Speer,

The Combined Executive Committee of the Chile Presbytery and Mission at its most recent session extended me the honor of being its spokesman - or more accurately, its "wrotesman" - in addressing this note to you. We had in mind the fact that during the coming days you will be completing the full measure of your service to Jesus Christ and His Church in your capacity of Board Secretary. I remember that as a boy I believed things had always been as I had first known them; uncles and aunts, the trees on our street and the open lot where we played ball. And in something the same way it seems to me and probably to many others in service on the field, that the Foreign Board has always had a Secretary called Robert E. Speer. It is hard for us to accept the fact that your official connection with the Board comes to an end and it will cost us frequent effort to remember it. We wish that it were not necessary; but the law of the Medes and the Presbyterians must stand.

Your faithful exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, your long years of service to the cause of Foreign Missions, your unflinching personal interest in the missionaries working under our Board, your many books full of faith and righteous living; for these and many others things we wish to thank you. And then we thank God for you. And we pray that the coming years may have in store for you great joy and continued wide service in the Master's Kingdom.

These few words of appreciation are ineffective indeed to express our affection for you, but they come from the heart and are wrapped in sincerity. We wish that you would share them with Mrs. Speer; we feel, but only you yourself can fully appreciate, how really they belong to her also.

Our prayers and our love go with you both.

Cordially yours,

*D. R. Edwards.*

For the Combined Executive Comm.

Chas. D. Smith - Oct 1937?

Re J. M. Conf. Goble, Ark. 37

\* I once taught for a while Baron J. H. Yoo (son of the last prime minister of Korea under the native regime) in the Anglo-Chinese College in Shanghai.

### Ten Days of Inspiration

He was converted in Shanghai, & became the first member of our church in Hanoi, 1846

He was one of the Koreans whom I spoke in, when the look over the country. I later persuaded to my for him. I came every day for 30 years - as just as the year closed he was released. He has

actually faced. Another said that the language of the church, particularly in regard to missions, is so outmoded that many young people actually do not know that the Christian missionary enterprise offers the highest expression of the ideals which underlie their aspirations for world betterment. Dr. Robert E. Spear, in summarizing the discussion, declared that in his opinion missions fails to interest young people today "because of our inability to ask them for their bodies. We can ask them for their money, their prayers, their interest, but we cannot ask them for themselves."

Many suggestions were made as to how young people might be interested in missions and in the total program of the church as well; but none was so unique as the suggestion made by the Rev. Philip P. Jones, who during the National Conference on the City Church spoke in favor of a society for the suppression of dullness in the church. With special reference to urban situations he said: "The bane of the church is dullness. The church school and the church should be a citadel of beauty. City life is drab and depressing. Its colors are gray, brown, brick-red. Sharp language is used in order that one may be heard above the noise of the streets. The church should be an oasis of loveliness, a place of spiritual refreshment. The administrators should give place to poets, artists, dreamers, musicians--those who have creative imagination and who can make life vivid, dramatic, and lovely."

If it is true that generally speaking administrators lack creative imagination, Dr. Robert E. Spear is indeed an outstanding exception to the rule. For no one who heard his address to the Foreign Missions Conference, from which he is retiring as president after forty-four years of active participation, could deny his power to make life vivid, dramatic, and lovely.

Drawing freely from his own rich experiences as a missionary statesman, he recounted the changes in method and personnel which have taken place during his lifetime, faced frankly the changes yet to come, established what he knew to be the eternal verities of the Christian faith, and expressed great hopes for the missionary cause of the future. "There are six million Christians in India alone today," he said. "More than there were in all the world at the end of the third Christian century. And one man's memory can span the growth of Christianity in Korea, where after only about fifty years of missions there are more Christians than there were in all the Roman Empire at the end of the first Christian century."

This address forms a peak of inspiration which stands out above all others during the entire series of conferences. Strangely enough, it cannot be separated from the man himself; for to think of it is to think of other times when he spoke, other moments when he stood as a silent inspiration to the group over whom he presided. Perhaps the greatest blessing of all came at the close of the Conference when, looking over the group representing so many differences of opinion, interpretation, and method, yet bound together in an organization to which he had given the best of his useful life, he said with infinite tenderness: "We all have a great body of common convictions. There are rocks, great rocks underlying the Christian movement which are immovable. Neither life nor death, time nor change can remove them. 'By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples: that ye love one another.' 'A new commandment I give unto you--that ye love one another as I have loved you.' Whatever we may say about social, ethical, political ideas, we know that the only dynamic back of it all is that we have the same love with which Christ loved us."

see as far as possible. Amount of street front - early part of 1900 Yoo & son's mission

Exec Council Adm & W. Brown

Actin - Aug 18 '37

The Executive Council must now recognize the unwelcome fact that its Senior Secretary, Robert E. Speer, has reached that date on the calendar of years when, because of the laws of our Church, he must retire from active official service. This fact will, no doubt, be noted by other groups, and deep appreciation of his contribution to the cause of foreign missions will be voiced in words more eloquent. Yet no expression of regret will be more sincere than this which comes from the small group with which ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~Speer~~ has been most intimately associated during the many years of his service.

The Executive Council will leave to others the evaluation of the service of Robert E. Speer to the Board of Foreign Missions, and to the great Church at large, of whose work that Board is but a part. The Council prefers, rather, to refer to him, very simply, as a much-loved friend, who, having borne a major share of a heavy burden, during many years, is now relieved of the details of office attendance, but, from just a little farther off, will still hold his own place in our affection and continue to be an inspiration and ideal to all of us.

No one could fully express all that Robert E. Speer has meant, and will continue to mean, to (this small group) <sup>As our leader, he</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>who came</sup> has been accessible always to those of us <sup>seeking counsel, calm and serene</sup> in his judgments, inflexible in his stand for what he considered right. In him there has been no taint of self-seeking, no pursuit of gain. Blessed with an intellect ever attended by deep human sympathy, and an irresistible humor, it may be said of him in the lines written by Drayton, -

"He was of a temper so absolute  
As that it seemed when Nature him began  
She meant to show all that might be in man."

Although Robert E. Speer will no longer occupy his  
accustomed seat among us, his name and his personality will remain  
enshrined in our memories and will live on in our hearts. We  
shall constantly pray that his years to come may be the best of all,  
"the last for which the first was made."

1621- California Avenue,  
R. Santa Monica - California.

AUG 25 1937

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> - 1937.

Dear Mr. Speer: - <sup>(23)</sup>

If possible, I would love to run in, and have a real visit with you - as of old - when in Hongkong, (China) our beloved home for many years! <sup>you had</sup> Well, do I recall that visit, with us (my dear husband and myself) some years ago.

Often, have I <sup>also</sup> recalled the grand walks that Mr. Jackson and myself, had to the fine mountain tops - outside of our beloved city of Hongkong.

Now, what a blessing

and precious privilege, that  
we can, each one, live  
over the sweet memories—  
namely—“The Blessings  
that Remain”— one of  
my favorite-poems—

Now, I am writing  
very especially— to say—  
with regard to your ap-  
proaching retirement,  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September—

Truly, we all feel very  
thankful for the many  
years, that—The Lord  
has enabled you to  
continue in active ser-  
vice, in connection with  
the Board—

I truly, can testify  
to the splendid work that

You have done - and shall never forget  
our happy visit together in Haverhill (as  
I said above). May I repeat and em-  
phasize one sentence in the Board's letter -  
namely, "His (that is yours) name is en-  
shrined in our hearts, and our ear-  
nest prayer goes up to our Heavenly  
Father, that - he (Dr. Spear), may long be  
shared to us in health and strength".

I truly know just how my beloved  
husband would ~~really~~ feel, were he  
with us - But God called him Home, to  
those mountains above seven years ago  
This coming December - His will be done.

God bless and keep  
you and your dear  
family, in good health  
for years to come, is  
my prayer -

Cordially yours,  
(Mrs) Jennie W. Judson  
and Beila.



# SYRIA MISSION

of  
The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

E OF  
COMMITTEE

TARY

BEIRUT July 29, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 5th Avenue  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer,

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Mission I was commissioned to write you on behalf of the Mission on the occasion of your coming retirement from active service as a Secretary of the Board. The exact wording of the Mission action is as follows:-

"VOTED, that the Secretary of the Mission be instructed to express to Dr. Robert E. Speer the appreciation of the Mission of his half century of service to the missionary cause, and especially of his relationship to this Mission, and to assure him of our earnest wish and prayer that he be given long years of service, free from routine duties, in which to contribute from his rich store of knowledge and experience to the furtherance of the interests of the great cause to which he has devoted his life."

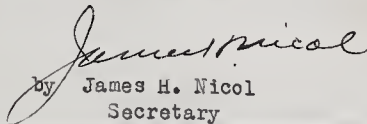
It is impossible for me to carry out this instruction of the Mission in any perfunctory or official way. The associations and memories of over forty years are too intimate and too profoundly significant, to permit me to face their official termination without a deep sense of personal loss. (It is true that in the earlier years our relationship was somewhat one-sided, as I knew you and admired from the far distance, before you even knew me.) I well remember the day in Toronto thirty-five years ago, when you were talking to the Presbyterian Students about the call to the foreign field. I was peacefully enjoying it for the sake of others who might be concerned, but it was no particular concern of mine, for was I not called to stay in America? Then you pointed most impolitely straight at me, and said: "You are sitting there saying that you haven't been called. Well, then, in the name of God, I call you now." It was just the word I needed at the time, and the happiness and sense of fulfillment that my life has had for 32 years, is due in large measure to your moving word. Just how many others of the past student generation owe their life fulfillment to a similar call, no one will ever know, but as the Assembly report so truly says, "his name has exercised a magic influence on the youth of our colleges". And of course we know that a human name exerts such magic influence, only when it gets its power from that Name which is above every name, even the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. (But I must not make this too personal, for it must be an official letter, you understand.) Since the withdrawal of Dr. White you have been our own Secretary. It has been my privilege throughout the period to be the corresponding Secretary, at this end. On behalf of the Mission, therefore, I wish to express our gratitude for your patience with our weaknesses and foibles, your almost uncanny understanding of our problems, your sympathy and helpfulness at all times.

We realize that it will make you happy to know that we are taking up the relationship with new friends at the home base in all loyalty, but we may be pardoned for a feeling of lonesomeness and regret at the termination of an official relationship that was really never so much that, as it was the relationship of colleague and friend. It is the certainty that this relationship will endure irrespective of official connection, that makes it easier to face your impending retirement. We crave an interest in your thoughts and prayers during the coming years.

In all of our affectionate remembrances and good wishes, we associate with you your wife, who in her turn has been an inspiration to the young women of her time, and a constant friend to us all.

May the Lord bless you and keep you both, and give us the benefit of your friendship and help for many years to come.

Your friends and colleagues in the Syria Mission,

  
by James H. Nicol  
Secretary

11-2070

3, S. Portland Ave.,

Ventnor, N. J., Aug 17, 1937

Dear Dr. + Mrs. Speer:

Ans. For some time I have been planning to write to you to thank you for all the help that you have given to Emma + me during these years of your leadership in the Board of Missions. Though we have not had very much personal correspondence, it has done us good, + added inspiration + stability to our lives, just to have you there.

In many ways your influence + your guidance have strengthened us, + you have been of more help to us than you realize.

Now you are retiring at just about the same time that we also are leaving the Board's roster; so that we shall not have to find out what it

is like to be missionaries with  
the benefit of your leadership! We  
are to start out in America with  
just a small Country Church (at  
Mansfield Center, Conn.) & you are  
to go on to still wider fields of  
influence even than you have had.  
In ~~the~~<sup>our</sup> new work we shall still  
look <sup>to</sup> you for help, through your books,  
your inspiration & your general influence  
in the Christian movement as a whole.

Please give our love to Marnie  
when she arrives. If ever you or  
she get me into the eastern part of  
Connecticut, please be sure to stop off  
to see us. - We hope also to see  
a good deal of Grace Year this year.  
Emma joins me in sending best  
wishes to you both.

Sincerely, Richard H. Hettis.

MANORSIDE  
DORSET, VERMONT

Aug 20/37

Dr. Robert E. Spear,  
156 Fifth Ave. N. Y. C.

Dear Dr. Spear:— I am very glad  
to write you that our dear Emily  
Minor is much better. For a time she  
seemed to be failing, but now we  
can see a marked improvement from  
week to week. The doctor's calls are  
less frequent, though he says he greatly  
enjoys his visits with that bright woman.  
Emily has frequently shared with me

from lovely little notes to her I  
thanked her for them at the time and  
now I want to thank you. They meant  
much to her and of course it was  
delighted when my name was mentioned.

How these summer days are slipping  
away! It has been a great privilege  
and benediction to have the  
Cousers with us this summer.

That strange fiery trial has only  
burned their bonds leaving no  
smell of the fire upon them.

I am of the same opinion today  
as I have been for the past twelve

Year - I have never known a better  
missionary than Forest Conser. Ed  
am thankful that he is still in  
our W. I. Mission.

I had hoped that Mr. Hoes would  
make us a visit while the Coners  
were here, but he did not want to  
miss even one day of his classes  
- He has promised to come later on  
in September. I pray that his stay in  
America may result in great blessing to him.

And now dear Dr. Spur words  
fail to express my appreciation of  
your kindness manifested in so many

ways ever since that day March 1,  
1891 in Cleveland, O. when God used you  
to convince me that He was calling  
me to preach the gospel in the  
regions beyond. The other day  
when Mr. Lower called here some one  
asked him who would take Dr. Speer's  
place. He replied "No one - no one  
could" (doubtless thousands feel just  
the same) and he added "It makes  
me sick to go into Mr. Carter's office  
now."

Soon you will be having more  
business to be in "God's-duty-don'ts"



And so some day you must bring  
Mrs Spur up to see Cooky Dorset.  
The latchstring at Mansside  
will always be out to you -

Yesterday Mr Conner took a  
car full of our family to Boston.  
They will be returning tomorrow -

Emily joins me in every good  
wish for you now & world without end.

Your grateful friend  
Wanda G. Jefferson

# Juniata College

Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

CHARLES C. ELLIS, PRESIDENT

Dt

September 10, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Speer:

I saw in the paper recently the notice of the fact that you are to attain your seventieth birthday on the 10th, which is this very day. I had really hoped to be able to send you my congratulations in time for them to reach you on this important anniversary. I hope that the delay will not indicate to you any lack of warmth in the very sincere congratulations which I do send, along with the most earnest hope that you may be spared for many years of continued inspirational service to the Christian Church.

Mrs. Ellis joins me in very kindest regards and good wishes as well as prayers for every blessing upon you and yours at this time.

Very sincerely yours,



# Northern Baptist Convention

## COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND PROMOTION

Oliver U. Chapman, Chairman

W. H. Bowler, Executive Secretary

152 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

### VISUALIZATION

Harry S. Myers, Secretary

September 9, 1937

*Dis*

Dr. Robert E. Spear  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Robert Spear:

I desire to express my great appreciation for the friendship and fellowship that has existed between us during all these years. More than once you have been a great help to me.

I was either a freshman or a sophomore in college when you came to Hillsdale for the Student Volunteer Movement. I had already determined that my life work was to be law. I had passed an examination on Blackstone (I probably didn't know anything about it) and during the preceding three years and the succeeding two years I read a good deal more law but I went to your meeting because if I was to be a Christian lawyer, I ought to be informed about religion. I went back to the house where I lived, argued with my roommate, went across the hall and argued with the two fellows there and with another fellow who lived on our floor, using the same arguments you had used.

It was three or four years later that I decided to enter religious work and my mind immediately turned to missions and I have been there ever since, everything seeming to indicate that I should not go to the foreign field, although in due time that matter was discussed with the Free Baptist Board.

I am only one of the multitude to whom you have meant so much and now that you are retiring, I want you to know that this is so.

Sincerely yours,

*Harry S. Myers*

HSM:GL



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WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT  
8445 GREENE STREET  
GERMANTOWN - PHILADELPHIA

September 13th 1937

My dear Robert;

I am glad to see by the enclosed clipping that you are still active! However I am quite disturbed to note that you are breaking into new and responsible fields of endeavor without the necessary preparation. Do you realize how impossible it is at your time of life to move into this very exacting profession of wall building with so little specialized information and experience. I know you have had a certain kind of contact with stone walls through the years and it had been highly educative. Haven't I shared with you in the process of butting these poor heads of ours against the stone walls of indifference, ignorance and inability stretching all across this land of ours where ever Presbyterians have lifted their calcified skulls? Of course you must have learned something that will help you to make your stone work less objectionable to Lakeville landscape artists even in 156 Fifth Avenue. But have you gone at this matter in a way that would meet the cultural standards of the Board of Christian Education? Have you gone to the trouble before launching into this arduous career of looking into your dictionary for the definition of a "wall"? I am sure the definition in any ordinary dictionary would give pause to one whose reputation for conservatism is so well established. The inferential deterrants in the definition in my inexpensive dictionary ought to be enough to lead you to a reconsideration of what all your friends will feel to be an impulsive decision. I shall give only a part of it, but if after reading it and balancing all its implications in your mind, you insist on going forward with this profession, I wish here to record my absolute freedom from any responsibility for what happens in the realm of architectural masonry

in Litchfield County. N.B. "A wall is a continuous structure (note the dire implications of "continuous") as of stone OR brick (had you thought at all of these material complications that immediately arise?) with a thickness small as compared with its length (My dear Robert! have you really gone thoroughly into this fundamental matter of proportion that obtrudes before I get even half through my definition?) designed to enclose an area, to provide defense or security, (I can scarcely proceed further when I think of you a confirmed Pacifist becoming proficient in an art that for a thousand years has been a chief military requisite in the curriculum of war) or to be the surrounding exterior etc; etc; etc; !.

There is no need to quote the rest of this definition every word of which is filled with hints of immeasurable responsibilities.

I have done my part to warn you against any impetuous decisions as you pass into this era of irresponsibility.

While mopping your brow with your dusty stone cutter's apron won't you accept hearty love and congratulations from one who in all probability will have to envy your expertness when perchance we may be given a joint contract by the Great Architect for several furlongs of wall to be laid up in jasper, beryl, sardonyx, chrysoprasus and carbuncle and He shall insist on the Lakeville pattern! I shall then as always say with affectionate devotion

At your service!

*Will*

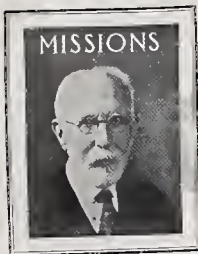


Dr. R. E. Speer Gardening at 70

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKEVILLE, Conn., Sept. 10.—

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer, retiring secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, today spent his seventieth birthday working in his garden and building a stone wall at his country home here. He received many letters and telegrams of felicitation. Members of the family with him included his daughter, Margaret, who is dean of Wen Chiang University at Peiping.



## The Editor Emeritus says:

### The Retirement of Robert E. Speer

**T**HE 10th of September brings an important and significant foreign missions anniversary. It is the 70th birthday of Dr. Robert E.

Speer, and by the 70-year retirement regulation of the Presbyterian Foreign Board, on that date he retires from active secretarial service and as leader of the foreign mission forces of America.

I had thought to make this retirement the occasion for a sketch of the life and work of Dr. Speer, with appropriate recognition of the unique place he has so long occupied in the esteem and affection of his brethren of all denominations. But this I shall not now undertake, out of deference to his wishes as expressed in a letter received in answer to some inquiries. He says:

I appreciate deeply what you have in mind, but earnestly hope that you will not go forward with it. I am doing my utmost to keep everything of a biographical and personal character out of these closing months of my official connection with our Board. . . . In whatever you write, will you not make it just as impersonal as possible. Let the cause fill the whole picture, and let us water-carriers and wood-hewers who have sought to serve it be in our proper place out of sight.

In these characteristic words Dr. Speer reveals the spirit and quality of mind and heart that have permeated and dominated his lifetime of unstinted and undeviating missionary service. As for keeping out of sight, that was not in his control. Consistent and conspicuous Christian character is not easily concealed, and the name of Robert E. Speer has long since been placed among the immortals.

Following now his request to magnify the cause and not the man, I turn to the last two official utterances connected with his retirement. The first of these was a Foreign Missionary Appraisal, made to his Board as of January 1, 1937. The second was his address on "Some Changing and Unchanging Things in Foreign Missions," as Chairman of the 44th annual session of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America at Asbury Park. In these he expressed his matured convictions concerning the cause to which his life had been devoted. I can only summarize and hope that the thoughtful reading of both addresses may result. No other man could have made them.

In the first, Dr. Speer gave his Board a historical survey of rare comprehensiveness, which showed

clearly how "crucial times" and "crises" had always marked the foreign missionary enterprise from its inception, while in no period had missions received the full support of the churches, but had constituted a minority interest. From this unusual review of "crises" already survived, with its lessons of encouragement, he passed to features of the present, its difficulties and problems; and closed by suggesting an outline of policy for the immediate future. The basic factors in today's problem are: the general low spiritual tension; and an inadequate conception of the nature of Christianity, its finality and absoluteness, its true character as a revelation and not a religion. The future missionary policy, to be successful, must revert to that of Carey and Judson. Four open modes of influence named are: Prayer as a real force; publicity as the ceaseless proclamation of the essentials of Christianity, the facts of human need, and the adequacy of the gospel; wisely conceived and steadily executed plans for presenting the cause at home and prosecuting it abroad; personalities, on whom rather than on programs and policies this and all great work rests.

In the address at Asbury Park, which showed the phenomenal reading which made Dr. Speer one of



Robert E. Speer

the best informed men of his time along many lines, the changing things noted were in personnel, in methods including new forms of evangelism, in attitude toward the promotional work. Among the things that do not change he named as first, God, the same from everlasting to everlasting, and Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. "In the absoluteness, the finality, the sufficiency, the uniqueness of this supreme Personality the missionary enterprise believes, and here it unalterably stands." Other unchanging things are the facts of our Christian history and the gospel records of them; our common catholic faith, where we need not so much more doctrinal agreement as the implementing of existing agreement in united action; the great spiritual principles and issues that abide, together with the

moral principles; the real nature of this life we are trying to live, and the work we are trying to do. His closing words were: "Jesus Christ asked, 'If any man will come after, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.' This is the summons unchanging and unchanging."

The effect of these addresses was profound. I realize that this brief summary cannot in the least represent the rich-voiced personality that led one New York pastor to say to a friend beside him, "Robert gets more and more saintly every year." That he finds in Jesus Christ the sufficient and inexhaustible subject of "occupation for one's mind" will not be doubted by any reader of Dr. Speer's latest remarkably self-revealing book, *The Meaning of Christ to Me*, published by Revell.

JAS. J. WALSH, M. D.  
110 WEST 74TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

216

September 11, 1937

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am just back from a little jaunt in the Laurentians and I find that they have been celebrating your seventieth birthday.

My greetings are belated but they are none the less sincere and hearty.

I wish you many years of health and happiness and occupation with such details of life as the papers report. Dear old Antaeus used to gather strength renewal every time he touched mother earth, and I am sure that you will do the same.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Jas. J. Walsh

37  
2889 San Pasqual St. Pasadena, California.

Sept. 7th. 1937.

Robert Speer D. D.

Dear Dr. Speer;

In view of the fact that you will be soon be placed on the list of the "Honorably Retired" I am sending you this letter of sympathy because I know something of the very mingled feelings with which we feel the approach of the time that carries us over the line that marks the difference between an active and a retired life, dedicated to the Master's service.

If you, as I do, sometimes doubt the wisdom of man-made rules that so deeply affect the routine of our work, we do not doubt the wisdom of the providences of our Lord in preparing us for our work, in sustaining us in it, and in giving us His approval when we have "well done". If He gives us strength to continue in His service for a while He will also show us the way in which He would have us walk.

Allow me to add that while I feel that Our Lord has richly approved your efforts to extend His cause in the world and has given you great opportunities and the ability to make use of them in a striking manner, I join with you and your friends in saying: "Blessed be His name."

Most sincerely yours;



Thomas H. Candor.

Hon. Retired from the Columbia Mission.



156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

Δκ

Greetings and  
Congratulations  
on this important  
Anniversary occasion!

Sept 10/37

W P Woodcock

"This man endured the stress of stormy years  
Nor overvalued praise or blame -  
For clean deep-rooted pride  
Upheld his will  
Always.  
And though  
Defying fate,  
If it should seem unjust,  
Dark bitterness was not for him.  
He stood unswayed by passing angry winds,  
His heart as sound as that of sturdy oaks;  
And each year's ring of added growth  
Showed his maturing power.  
So he grew old -  
Men said.  
They spoke  
Of fleeting time!  
But he combined ripe force  
With youth's constructive eagerness;  
Such men conserve the best their era wins."

# THE CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD

OF

## NEWARK PRESBYTERY

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Secretary and Superintendent

909 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, N. J.

TELEPHONE MARKET 3-5164

D. L.

Newark, N. J.  
Sept., 9, 1937

My dear Dr. Reynolds:

Just a note of birthday greeting,  
and an expression of appreciation  
as you pass another mile stone  
in your much blessing and  
blessed life.

We thank God for these years  
during which you have been  
a blessing to thousands and  
blessed by Him with so many  
gifts of mind and heart.

We pray God that you may  
continue to bring a blessing to  
thousands for many years, and  
retain for time and eternally  
your God-given endowments of  
affectionately yours  
Charles Lee Reynolds

GEORGE B. WINTON  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
NASHVILLE, TENN.

216

September 12, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Lakeville, Conn.

My well-remembered and  
ever honored friend, When I saw your  
picture in the New York Times on a prospect  
in septuagenarian, it was in my  
heart at once to send you a word of  
greeting. Then a rush of atenciones,  
supervened, and it was not done. I  
wish for you, even thru belatedly, much  
peace and all joy in the busy retire-  
ment you have planned. The pen  
is a real release after administra-  
tive cares, as I have found.

Believe me as of a true most  
sincerely and affectionately

Yours,  
Geo. B. Winton.

MISTERS  
 BEL  
 No. 3, Ill.  
 BECK,  
 Canton, O.  
 ISTMAN,  
 Groves, Mo.  
 K. C. KLICK,  
 Louis, Mo.  
 TZ,  
 Geville, Pa.  
 SCH,  
 Albany, Ind.  
 SS,  
 Louis, Mo.  
 K. L. RODENBECK  
 oln, Neb.  
 NOW,  
 Wayne, Ind.  
 SCHROEDER,  
 hester, N. Y.  
 EBBE,  
 ope, S. Dak.

# THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## OF THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE

### EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

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 PHILADELPHIA, PA.

REV. H. P. VIETH  
 1720 CHOUTEAU AVENUE  
 ST. LOUIS, MO.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., to St. Louis, Mo.,

September 8, 1907

*On train*  
*DLB*

LAY MEMBERS  
 CHARLES S. ADAMS,  
 Eaterly, Pa.  
 WILLIAM H. BROWN,  
 Rochester, N. Y.  
 J. C. FISCHER,  
 Evansville, Ind.  
 C. B. FREDERICK,  
 Canton, O.  
 F. A. KECK,  
 St. Louis, Mo.  
 MRS. F. WILLIAM LEICH,  
 Shelby, O.  
 JOHN W. MUELLER,  
 St. Louis, Mo.  
 MRS. IDA PAULEY,  
 University City, Mo.  
 D. J. SNYDER,  
 Greensburg, Pa.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
 New York City.

Dear Friend Speer:

I wish you a happy birthday. May it be the most joyous one of your life thus far.

Mr. Moody was right - God is looking for men whom He can use. He found - one in you. You have been faithful to Him and He has used you in a wonderful way for the upbuilding of His Kingdom. I pray that you will have many more years of service and that you will have health and strength to enjoy them.

I am writing this as we are going by Huntington and will post it at Altona.

Praying for our Father's continued richest blessings upon you

Love

Most cordially yours,  
 William E. Lampe

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

BIBLE HOUSE, ~~ASPER PLACE~~

NEW YORK

26

Sept. 10. 1937

Dear Dr. Speer—

There are two who will be coming to your mind and mine today, who will be sending you birthday messages of love and humor from beyond the Stars. What they will be saying you will be understanding, I am sure, for it is not for me to express it. For many a year you and they worked side by side for the Kingdom of Him who rules earth and Heaven and you with them be knowing their minds and their love for you.

So I have only to speak

for myself and say that the  
Calendar is all awry —

Three score and ten is a poetic  
conception devised by some  
one to afford a reason for  
going fishing more often and  
to be taken only as such.

Go fishing more often, by  
all means, but give the  
world many many more  
years of service and use  
of counsel and particularly  
of friendship.

Ever with affection,  
E.  
Orie

THE NORTH AVENUE CHURCH  
[PRESBYTERIAN]  
NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK

THE  
PASTOR'S STUDY

Dec

September 9, 1937

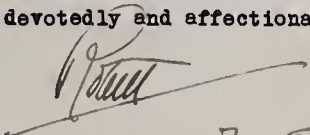
Dear Robert:

I know how old you will be tomorrow - three score and ten. This the calendar telle me but your actions and enthueiaems belie the calendar. You are no older now than you were when - nineteen years ago - I came on the Board and I aesure you that we are going to miss you beyond worde to exprese.

How are we going to get along? I don't know except that we are going to live a day at a time. I often think of the worde in Weetminster Abbey, on the Wesley tablet: "God buriee His workmen and carrie on Hie work". The truthfulness of this I am sure you have found out because you have eeen many of God's workmen fall by the wayeide only to eee the work go on. We are thankful, of couree, that while you have etepped out of office, you etill remain with us. May you continue to for many yeare.

My greetinge to you on your birthday and every good wish to and for Mrs. Speer.

Ever devotedly and affectionately  
yours,



Dr. Robert E. Speer  
RGMcG:MD

My Dear Mr. Speer 637



**WILL BE 70 ON FRIDAY**  
**Dr. Robert E. Speer**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKEVILLE, Conn., Sept. 5.—Dr. Robert E. Speer, who retired last May as secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, plans to celebrate his seventieth birthday on Friday. A daughter, Miss Margaret Bailey Speer, dean of women at Yensing University, China, who is to arrive in the United States tomorrow on furlough, will be among the members of the family present. Others will be Mrs. Speer and a son, William, who is a teacher at Shady Hill School, Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Speer, who plans to close his city home at 24 Gramercy Park, New York City, in the Fall, and to live here permanently, said today that he had "work laid out for twenty years," including the writing of additional books on missions.



26

ARTHUR J. BROWN  
1235 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 16, 1927

Dear Robert:

I had planned to see you yesterday and, in person, give you my loving greetings on your birthday; but I learned at the office that you were in Bakerville. I am sure that you spent the day happily with your loved ones, although this morning's paper says that you were "working in" your "garden" and "building a stone wall." I can imagine that this added to your happiness. What a wonderful life you have had! I count our fellowship in Christian service one of the valued treasures of my life, dear Robert. Now that you are freed from the exacting hours and routine duties of the office, your already wide opportunity to do "great things for God" is still further widened so that I am confident that "the best is yet to be." God bless you during the coming years, beloved! You long have been, and you will continue to be, often, very often, in my thoughts and prayers.

Mrs. Brown and Eleanor join me in all good wishes and in warm regards to Mrs. Speer.

Ever affectionately,

Arthur

1200 California Street,  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Rob:

Cordy as we have been in our birthday greetings, Evelyn and I want even at this late date to send our love and every good wish for very many happy returns of the day, which has brought so much comfort, not only to thousands of souls in this country of ours, but also to the many thousands in far-flung foreign lands: and with this goes a prayer that you will be spared in health and happiness to complete the labors you have set for yourself during the coming twenty years, as outlined in the New York Times.

Already, Rob, yours has been a life of great achievements, but we realize it will be impossible for you to rest on the sidelines, while the battle rages all the more fiercely in this present-day topsy-turvy world in which we are now living. So, may all the more power be given you!

Evelyn and I were particularly happy to note Margaret was to share in your birthday celebration last Friday. She has been much in our thoughts of late, and it is a great relief to know she is no longer in war-torn China. One stands

aghast at the scenes of horror and suffering  
being enacted there.

Please give our love to Emma and Mar-  
garet. Emily is at present visiting an aunt  
in San Mateo, or she would insist in be-  
ing included in all these messages of ours.

In closing let me add this personal mes-  
sage of my own — A hearty welcome to you  
in having joined our Three Score Years &  
Ten Club. It is a growing fraternity, and  
I have found its advantages outweigh its  
liabilities.

Again with every good wish,

Very affectionately yours,  
Will.

September 14<sup>th</sup> / 1937.

W. J. Dow

24

Sept 11-1937

Dear Robert-

My New York paper tells me that you had a birthday yesterday, and that you spent it out of doors on the farm, or something to that effect. May I add my congratulations to the many you have received, on your attaining the ripe age of three score and ten?

Thrice, or was it ten? - years ago, I quoted "Rabbi Ben Ezra" to my classmates ~~and~~ at Andover, and said that this period of maturity was "the crest," that, if we ever <sup>were to have</sup> had satisfactions in this life, they should be ours by now. If that is true of sixty or sixty five, how much more of seventy! But this letter was not meant

for moralizing, but for a greeting  
to one of the dearest and best of my  
friends. So here is to you, Robert  
Speer!

Affectionately

Falcoot M Banks

I shall have to wait until  
next April to qualify as a  
septuagenarian.

Dr. R. E. Speer Gardening at 70

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKEVILLE, Conn., Sept. 10.—

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer, retiring secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, today spent his seventieth birthday working in his garden and building a stone wall at his country home here. He received many letters and telegrams of felicitation. Members of the family with him included his daughter, Margaret, who is dean of Wen Chiang University at Peiping.

Ipswich,  
Mass.

13 September '37

46 →

P.S. I see gardening you a little back, much like S. Williams

Dear old Robert Speer  
Like the Grand  
Empire Discretion  
the Cabbages have  
got you at last?  
Well, what a  
fine fruitful life  
you have had in  
the days of your activity

MEN

Dr. R. E. Speer Gardening at 70

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Our old Teacher  
of the old Cove,  
was prophetically  
right "You can  
not get by  
Speer!"

How are you  
going to keep  
these thousands of  
Books from  
Mouldering in  
that big Barn

you told the Boys of '86 about?

Well Stores or fire place  
or a kind of barn-yard  
Furnace do the trick

Well, Good Bless you!

Did not think there were  
any people in the Wood so old  
as to!

Sincerely yours from Anderson  
Carroll Perry



# Immanuel Presbyterian Church

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LAFAYETTE 1216

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MABEL R. ELLIS, FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
MARY TOWNSEND, STENOGRAPHER

*216*

Sept. 13, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 - 5th Avenue  
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Doctor Speer:

I am writing to express to you my regret at not being able to be at the farewell dinner given to you by the Board on September 20. I have just gotten back from a summer in the Near East and find my work piled up here in such a way that I will not be able to get away. I regret deeply being unable to be present at this dinner.

You have rendered an invaluable service to the church and one wonders how we will be able to get along without you. I pray God that He may richly bless you and give you yet many years of useful service in the Kingdom. I realize that whether on the Board or off it, you will be busy for the work. You lay down your task with the gratitude of the whole church.

With all kindest regards,

I am

Very cordially yours,

*F. Paul Geonkey*

FPMc/mt

216 Sept 11/37

My Dear Mr. Speer

Now that you have turned a corner, I want to congratulate (the word is insufficient) you on your long travels of the past.

When you become my age you will only have nine years more to work, and please let me say that in my case 70 to 81 was very similar to 59 to 70, but I am not robust. On the 30<sup>th</sup> we will move to Riverside Drive + 181<sup>st</sup> St. where I can look across from where I was born to Englewood. But this is all "I". You will live at Lakeville where you will write + write + receive many invitations, but when you accept them I wish I could be around. We have

driven through Lakeville more  
than once, it is beautiful.

God has always blessed you and  
He will continue to bless you  
and yours. I am alone, writing  
this, but I know all mine want to  
join me in wishing everything  
that is best for you and yours.

Sincerely

Jay Harry Turk

until the 30<sup>th</sup> )  
1486 Lexington Av.)

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
MIDDLETOWN, CONN.  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

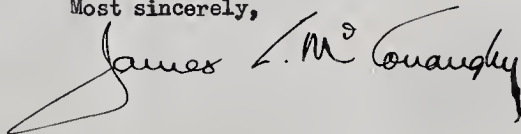
113

September 9, 1937.

My dear Dr. Speer:

May I join the host of your friends who are thinking of you on this significant birthday. We are all most grateful for the life of outstanding usefulness behind you and for the prospect of many, many years, ahead.

Most sincerely,

James M. Conaughy

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
24 Gramercy Park,  
New York City.

BOSKY LEDGES  
CHRISTMAS COVE  
MAINE

213

Sept. 8

My dear Robert;

Permit me to offer my hearty congratulations on your reaching the Biblical "three score and ten" years.

I know of no one who is entitled to look back on his active life with more satisfaction than yourself - a remarkable achievement of accomplishment and of Character.

Dr. Schell, who has been here this summer,

Give me the pamphlet copy  
of your address at the Assembly  
and Centenary Summary  
of the Board of Foreign  
Missions - the latter a fine  
piece of work in most  
attractive form of presen-  
tation.

With best wishes for  
many more years to add to  
your 70, I am,

Yours faithfully  
Howard M. Williams

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHESTER W. WHARTON, PASTOR  
VALPARAISO, INDIANA

D12

September 7, 1937.

Pr. Robert E. Speer,  
New York City.

My dear Pr. Speer: -

In behalf of my Church and myself  
I am extending to you our greetings of love,  
and our good wishes, for the occasion of your  
birthday.

In doing so we acknowledge God's rich  
favor to us in the great missionary  
ministry which He has given us through  
you. And we are deeply grateful for  
the many personal influences  
your spirit has impinged upon  
our minds and hearts. My own  
decision for the ministry began from  
a week at Williams Bay where I had  
work in your group.

We pray for God's continued and  
abundant blessing in your life & in that of  
your family.

At this moment I am waiting for a  
train to Red Oak, Iowa, where I begin  
a series of some twenty conferences  
for the Centennial. The response is most  
encouraging. Again my love & good wishes  
to you. Sincerely, Chester W. Wharton.

A. C. M.

DB

Blowing Rock  
N. C.

My dear Dr Speer  
your picture in  
the Times this morning  
brought the news of your  
birthday into the back  
woods of the North Carolina  
Mountains - May I add  
the greetings for your  
birthday from my family  
to the great host that



Come to you -

Not only because of my  
Father's friendship for  
you but also in memory  
of our pleasure in your  
visits -

May the coming year  
give you vigor of mind  
& soul as well as body

Sincerely yours

Mary Cabell Warfield

September 8 1937

JOHN WILSON WOOD, D.C.L.  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
THE REV. A. B. PARSON  
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY FOR LATIN AMERICA

☞ ☞ ☞

J. G. VAUGHAN, M.D., MEDICAL ADVISER  
(150 Fifth Avenue, New York)

☞

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THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS  
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

☞

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
LEWIS B. FRANKLIN, TREASURER

☞

IN REPLY TO THIS LETTER,  
PLEASE REFER TO ITS DATE

Sept 9, 1937

DIR

Dear Robert:

Today I was talking Artley  
Pason about the first time I ever  
met you. Doubtless you have  
forgotten. It was in the old  
brown stone residence on lower Fifth  
Ave - years & years ago. Silas  
McBee and I called on you.

And now the calendar says  
you are on the eve of your seven-  
tieth birthday, and the laws of the  
Probytanian medals and pensions  
say we cannot have you with  
us in the fraternal fellowship.

I don't like it a bit. Better  
for the cause to lose all the rest of  
us - and you go on. One does  
not mind the seventy years, for you  
are young in thought & outlook. One

doas rebel at the laws.

May the day bring you blessing  
and may you and Mrs. Speer  
grow sturdily for many years.

Faithfully and affectionately

John W. Wood

## A Letter and An Appreciation

Dear, dear Dr. Kerr,—

First a word of greeting as memories ever fresh of the Sabbath day you spent in Lahore come back to me—bringing me messages full of comfort, one of them in the drawing-room of 3, Empress Road and the other in the Naukaha church, the five words of "Be of good cheer, son, daughter, disciples, tossed by contrary winds."

On that Sabbath you baptized Patras (Peter) and Andreas (Andrew), two brothers of the lowly caste. Patras comes to me in my study nearly every night to unite in prayer, and last night I told him that I would be writing today to you, and told him also of what I would be writing, and then we two united in prayer. One of the things was my plea for fifty new missionaries to be sent out to India this year to prepare to teach the thousands of Christian boys and girls of the lowly castes in our villages to read the Bible. Patras could join in that prayer.

Last November a letter came from Dr. Speer to our mission in India, which had this sentence in it,—“Would it not be glorious if during the centennial year one hundred new missionaries could be sent to the field.” That would be one for each of these hundred years. For thirty-seven or thirty-eight years Dr. Speer has been secretary for our North India Missions—laying his hand on the hearts of the young missionaries he has sent us. One of them, Mr. Moore, president of our mission and chairman of our general board of twenty missionaries and twenty pastors and elders, a devoted evangelist for twenty-five years, was here today, and he told me that within our North India Mission were not fewer than nine thousand Christian boys and girls of school age who were not able to read the gospels.

Mrs. Llewellyn was here a few days ago and told us of the son of one of the lowly castes, a Christian boy who came first in one of the examinations covering the whole of the Punjab, and Miss Gairbreath of Etah in her report to the mission last month told of one of the girls in her school, of these lowly ones, who was admitted to a Government girls' school of higher grade in which were the daughters of Brahmin officials of the district, and this Christian girl of the lowly ones came out first in the examination. Well, you see how hard it is for me to curb this old pen when I think of these nine thousand boys and girls living in the villages and growing up without being able to read for themselves the words of Christ—having to eat them as they fall now and then from the mouth of an itinerant preacher.

I have read the loving tributes to Dr. Speer in the *Presbyterian Banner* of May

27th, and I am enclosing to you as associate editor my belated tribute, in the hope that you can give it a place before the 10th of September when he passes his three score years and ten, and while he passes away as Secretary of our Board, will be anointed for yet wider service of Christ and his church—perhaps the "General Staff" of all the churches the world over for which the Conference in Oxford is now planning.

With ever deepening appreciation of this great missionary brotherhood with which I was brought so long ago, and so into your friendship.

Yours affectionately,

J. J. LUCAS.

### An Appreciation Of Dr. Robert E. Speer

How has Dr. Robert E. Speer won the love of our missionaries in India? A few years ago a friend in America who put me in the class of Christians called fundamentalists, wrote me that I did not know Robert Speer—that he had changed in his later years. Yes, I knew that he had changed from the young man of twenty-four whose first address to the General Assembly in 1893 as secretary of our Board I had heard, and heard the words of the Moderator, Dr. Willis Green Craig, who arose at the close of that address, and stretching out his hand turned towards that young secretary and said, "Brethren, the Church is not poor to whom has been given the gift of this young man." And our Moderator that day received him with thanksgiving as a rich gift from the hands of the Head of the Church. Yes, forty-four years have passed since that day in the General Assembly in Washington City—some of them stormy days, as were the days during that Assembly—and the young secretary has changed, but it is the change which the Apostle Paul felt going on in his own heart and life and in the church at Corinth,—“We all with unveiled face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord.” If my friend in America had read, as I have, hundreds of the letters of Dr. Speer, personal and to the missionaries and missions in North India during the thirty-eight years since he has been our secretary, he would have known why he has won our confidence and love, for he has ministered to us and to our children out of a pastor's heart. No sorrow has touched us that has not touched him. No mission problem has perplexed us without his sharing it and helping us solve it. One of our young missionaries returned to America with serious spiritual perplexities. He told them to Dr. Speer. Yes, they were serious, and he might have been told that our Board could not return him, but our Missionary Pastor opened the way for him to spend part of

his furlough in a Bible school, and before the year was out, this gifted young missionary's mists were swept away and he is back in India, he and his wife greatly beloved by their fellow missionaries, their rich gifts consecrated to the service of Christ. Is it strange that we missionaries with such a pastor, though ten thousand miles away, ministering to us and our children in ways known often only to us, should carry him in our hearts with a love and reverence ever-deepening?

I have before me a worn printed leaflet headed, "Mr. Robert E. Speer on the Solution of Missionary Problems." The solution is founded on a letter of Dr. Speer's written to a mission in a country far away from India. An extract from that letter found its way into the hands of the editor of the "Makhzan-i-Masih" (Christian Treasury), a magazine published years ago by the North India Presbyterian Mission, Allahabad, and it found its way into his heart as well. He called them golden sentences, and not only gave them a place in the editorial columns of the Makhzan, but put them in a page leaflet to go far and wide. The golden words of that old worn leaflet are these,—

"Our own work by itself, and our service to the church, and our relations to . . . and to all other missionary actions in . . . will be elevated if they are rested upon the principle of truth, which eschews criticism, repeats no gossip, unearths no buried history, makes no personal comparisons, manufactures no facts, attributes the best motives, and embodies in life St. Paul's ideal of love. All this may seem to reduce our mission policy to a problem in ethics. I think that all over the world all that it needs is to be elevated to that character, and that the general practice of the 13th chapter of First Corinthians would solve every missionary problem with which we have to deal."

And this truth burnt into the hearts of the Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit is still true, that without that love of God which is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit, even the richest gifts of the Spirit lose the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ. We missionaries in India have felt the fragrance of that knowledge of Christ in the letters and love and life of Robert Speer. The Apostle Paul must oft have consecrated himself afresh for the service of Christ and his church, as in Arabia and Antioch and Troas and Jerusalem, in the storm on the Adriatic and in his own hired house in Rome. We may well believe that the Holy Spirit has oft consecrated afresh this beloved successor of the Apostle Paul, and that the hand that laid hold of him in the strength of his youth will renew it on the tenth of September for the service for which these seventy years have been the preparation.

J. J. LUCAS.

Landour, U. P., India.

TUDOR ARMS  
31 PONDFIELD ROAD WEST  
BRONXVILLE, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I wanted to say to you today more than my lips would utter. It has been fine to have been so long associated with Mrs. Speer and you in Association work and Presbyterian Board work, and thus to have had a little part in foreign missionary work.

I have selfishly felt more sad than you know these past weeks since you have been out of 809 but I have been happy in the thought of all that it will mean to you to be free from the heavy correspondence and committee work. I went into the desk where you have been sitting and wondered as I looked at that empty correspondence box if in all the ten years I have worked with you I ever saw it so empty.

I shall think of you now as happy with Mrs. Speer and the books and the flowers and all the beautiful country about you.

Faithfully,

*Susan C. Bidwell*

September 1, 1957

LEMUEL CALL BARNES  
459 MARLBOROUGH ROAD  
YONKERS, N. Y.

9-6-'37

Rev. Robert E. Speer LL/D.  
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Dr. Speer;

Thirteen years ago you said characteristically kind words when I was near the jumping off place. Those words and many others before and since are an abiding blessing. Thank you.

May the "twenty years of work ahead" which you plan be at least as happy as my lucky thirteen have been, and without a break.

To the little that Howard Grose said in Missions and the much more that he wanted to say, here is my amen and amen.

Ever Yours,

*L. C. Barnes*

6  
Df

THE PARSONAGE  
143 BLEECKER STREET  
GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.

Sept. 7th,  
19 37

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear "Bob":-

The New York Times informs me  
that you chalk up seventy years on Friday, the 10th.

What a span of usefulness yours has been! My most  
vivid recollections are of the time when you began  
your activities when I was a Freshman. And from that  
time on, with unvarying regularity, but with increased  
tempo, you have made an ~~unparalleled~~ unparalleled contri-  
bution to the upbuilding of the Kingdom of our God.

And I note that you have work laid out for twenty  
years ahead! May I hope that you may be given strength  
and grace to carry out your plans.

As with every life, there were ominous clouds that  
sometimes obscured the sun, but you and Mrs. Speer have  
come bravely through it all, and we rejoice with you  
that that faith which is the evidence of things not  
seen has never wavered.

With hearty congratulations from Mrs. Spicer and  
myself, and with all best wishes for the future, I  
remain

Very sincerely yours,

W. C. Spicer,

WILLIAM P. WATERHOUSE  
41 PROSPECT TERRACE  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

Sept 7 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear Dr Speer,

I wish to add my felicitations to the many that you will receive on your 70th Birthday.

I trust that the "Twenty years of work" that you have laid out for yourself will be very happy ones, the happiest of them all.

Very sincerely yours,

*William P. Waterhouse*

Elder, Central Brick Presbyterian Church  
East Orange, N.J.



AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

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*Foreign Secretary*

GEORGE B. HUNTINGTON  
*Treasurer*

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Telephone: TUcker 1314

September 3, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer:

During the twenty and more years in which I have been definitely committed to and engaged in the work of foreign missions, you, more than anyone else, have symbolized this great enterprise for me. While I was still a student at the University of Texas, long before I had the honor of knowing you personally, your life and thought as revealed in books and pamphlets which came into my hands influenced me greatly to consider and finally to decide upon missions as a life work. Then, as a travelling secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement, I came to know you, and in later years, as Dr. Wilder's successor in the work of the Movement, I looked to you more than to anyone else for real help in rightly understanding and serving the world movement of our Lord.

But not alone in the realm of missions am I indebted to you. Perhaps I owe you even a greater debt for all you have meant to me by your forthright and intellectually well-conceived and well-stated setting forth of the Christian faith. Time and again you have helped me to hold true to the basic convictions of evangelical Christianity and to do so without being either an obscurantist or one unmindful of the need to re-think and to re-state our faith in terms applicable to the conditions and problems of our own day.

When I recall, as I have often done, that in addition to all of this you have given me your personal friendship and counsel, I find myself deeply grateful to you and to God for you.

Since this is so it is not, I trust, presumptuous of me to send you this brief word of warm-hearted appreciation and esteem on the occasion of your retirement September 10 from the secretaryship of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. I am honored to feel free to put myself among the many who beyond doubt are writing to you at this time. I can not think of your retirement as a loss to our common cause, for just as you have crossed all boundaries and barriers in your work with the Presbyterian Board in order to help all of us, regardless of our denominational affiliations, so now in your years of freedom from a routine task you will speak and write in such a way as richly to bless us all. We shall, therefore, continue to look to you for inspiration and help in countless ways.

A lovely note from Tom Sharp came the other day in which he expressed his deep appreciation of your letter to him following the death of his brother. I have a very warm affection for Tom, even as he has for you.

Friendliest greetings to Mrs. Speer.

Sincerely,

Gene Wilson

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

JRW:MH

Happy Hour, to Roadwork -  
New Hampshire -  
9 Sept. 37

Dear Rob -

To-morrow is such a great  
day for thee - and for Emma - that  
I am thinking myself to you - word -  
with much love - Such milestones,  
of achievement past and achievement  
to come - do not come often - and  
we who love thee rejoice mightily -  
how good it is that Kayser is home  
to hear this anniversary with you -

I have been up near the top of  
this mountain of great memories -

of Emerson and Thoreau - this morn-  
ing - China and Spain seemed very  
far away yet those anguished people  
are constantly in our thoughts - and  
I have the deep thankfulness of your  
hearts that Marie is here and not  
there -

God be thanked, dear Rob, for the  
and for Emma - is my special song  
of thanks going to-day -

With love to you all -

Margaret -

Dr

609 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> '37

My dear Robert: As an old  
Member I have great pleasure  
in welcoming you into the  
Septuagenarian fellowship:  
Very hearty Congratulations:  
is-nt it astonishing how  
quickly birth days seem to  
come to us as we get along  
in life! they just rush at  
us: I Congratulate you on  
reaching three score and ten  
but especially do I Congratulate  
you on the fine record you  
have left behind you: over

609 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

If any man ever had the right to be satisfied with what he had accomplished throughout the year, assuredly you have: you have made a fine beginning: I'm sure the Good Lord has still greater things in store for you:

You have served a fine apprenticeship: may the years ahead, and I hope they will be many, be more useful and happy and better in every way than those in the past.

Very Sincerely yours  
Jas. M. Speers

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

MENT OF FINANCE AND  
AL RECEIVING AGENCY

*Dr*

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

40 Wall Street  
New York City  
September 8, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Board of Foreign Missions  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

As a member of the General Council, not to say as an old friend, I can't let the date of your retirement from the Foreign Board go by without an expression of admiring appreciation and deep regret.

We of your generation have come to associate you so completely with the wonderful achievements of the Board under your guidance that it will be difficult to readjust to any other attitude. I'm sure your spirit will happily carry on in the Board's momentum and standards for many years to come.

With deep thankfulness for the past and most cordial good wishes for the years ahead,

Faithfully,

*Boyer Abulhain*

RHW:h

HOOD COLLEGE  
JOSEPH H. APPLE, LL. D., PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

*Dr*

September 7, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer:

A local reporter seems to have learned of your approaching seventieth anniversary and has called to inquire of your visit to Hood College in 1933 and of my personal contacts with you. Reference to "Who's Who" recalls that this anniversary will occur just three days hence and I extend to you my heartiest felicitations upon the event, and my heartfelt congratulations upon your long service to your church and to the Kingdom.

I have found it interesting to note the comparison of dates in our lives. You came to your major task in 1891 at the age of 24, I came here at the age of 28 in 1893 remaining for 41 years until my retirement in 1934. I am thankful and the world is thankful that after 46 years of service, you are still "going strong" as you approach your seventieth birthday. May the Lord bless you as you near this anniversary and may He extend to you the privilege of added years of service as you pass beyond the three score and ten. Both experience and observation convince me that we mistake in counting life by figures on a dial. You are still young at 70 and able to extend your service to the Kingdom well beyond the already achieved 46 years.

It has been a great privilege to have known and worked with you both interdenominationally and denominationally. May I remind you that I highly prize the catalogue of the old Frederick Female Seminary (the forerunner of Hood College) that carried the name of your mother, Martha Ellen McMurtrie.

Mrs. Apple joins me in warmest greetings and heartiest congratulations.

Sincerely,

*Joseph H. Apple*





Ans. 8  
4/21

John Hall

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"HOSANGEORG"

# Hotel St. George

CLARK STREET AT HENRY  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Sept. 6, 1937.

My dear Friends:  
I wish to add my note of gratitude in the symphony & praise to God in Christ for you and your Threescore years and ten! When Theologies and philosophies fail us, our Lord still points us to men like you and says, "Behold a man! Consider what He have wrought together!"

I think "The Times" is mistaken about the length of time you have worked laid out for. I am sure it cannot be limited to twenty years or even twenty thousand. For you and your fellow servants were give the larger meaning to Paul's immeasurable work: "We are workers together with God" - forever!

Dr. Robert H. Geer,  
Rutledge, Conn.

Gratefully yours,  
Dorothy G. Shannon

DOWN'S, D. D.

R

IDINGS  
PASTOR

ROBERT W. MACD  
CLERK OF SESS

# The First Presbyterian Church

of Berkeley, California

DANA STREET AT CHANNING WAY

MARGARET W. DONALDSON  
SECRETARY

THE CHURCH OFFICE  
2407 DANA STREET

September 10, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Board of Foreign Missions,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I enclose a copy of my "appreciation" of you which I was invited to give by the Synod's Committee on Foreign Missions in connection with the Centennial Celebration held under the auspices of Synod on Sunday evening, July 25th. Please accept it as a partial expression of my high regard and deep appreciation.

I send it just at this time as you are passing the seventieth milestone. This inadequate but sincere tribute is accompanied with my prayers, personal affection and every good wish for the days that lie before.

Ever affectionately,

FSD:MWD

AN APPRECIATION OF ROBERT E. SPEER  
Given at the Synod of California,  
Lake Tahoe, California  
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At the Centennial Celebration of Foreign Missions,  
Sunday evening, July 25, 1937  
by his friend, Francis Shunk Downs  
-----

When Woodrow Wilson was at the height of his fame and influence, and every capital in Europe was bowing before him, an immortal sentence fell from his lips; "No man is indispensable."

The year that Robert Speer was elected Moderator, the General Assembly was meeting in San Francisco. It fell to my lot to serve as toastmaster at the Annual Dinner in connection with the Assembly of the Board of Foreign Missions. Due to troubles in China at that time, an unusually large number of missionaries were in attendance so that a hundred and fifty missionaries, friends and members of the Board were present that night. When I presented Dr. Speer to this group I referred to this statement of Woodrow Wilson and then added: "This is true; no man is indispensable, save the Man Christ Jesus, the only Mediator between God and Man. But if any man at this time in the life of our church and the missionary cause could be indispensable, it would be Robert E. Speer."

Born in Huntingdon in old Huntingdon Presbytery, Penna., where Walter Lowrie his predecessor and first Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions grew up as a boy; his father, a brilliant lawyer, his sainted mother called to her heavenly home when he was only a lad; going to Philips Andover Academy and then on to Princeton University where he achieved honors as student, athlete, and Christian leader, winning, it is said, during his four years the highest marks ever attained in scholarship shared only by Aaron Burr and one other; entering Princeton Seminary on fire for world missions, magnetic as a speaker, with a unique challenge to the youth of his day, he who was preparing for the ministry heard the call of the Board of Foreign Missions to become one of its secretaries, and thus in 1890 began the long and distinguished service of his greatest of missionary leaders.

Dr. Speer's life has been remarkable in its influence on young people. He shares with Hohn K. Mott in having addressed and influenced more young men and women than any other man of his generation. It has been my privilege to speak for Christ and His Cause in nearly every state of the Union and everywhere I have found men and women whose vital experience of Christ and their commitment to full-time Christian service has come about from an interview with Dr. Speer or from some message they heard him deliver.

Dr. Speer has been the outstanding leader in the Presbyterian Church for many years. Not only in the field of missions, not only as Moderator of its General Assembly, but when difficult problems demanded solution and delicate situations called for insight and decision, the church turned to this man for guidance and direction. He has been on the firing-line for years, bearing the scars as well as the honors of a good soldier, while many a wise action and a courageous advance has been due to him standing in the background, his strength and courage unheralded but not unknown.

As author and speaker, Dr. Speer is known on every continent. From his early books rich in their Biblical content and interpretation of Christ to the later missionary masterpieces in the field in which he specialized, Dr. Speer's contribution as an author has inspired countless thousands to Christian living and unselfish service.

On all kinds of occasions, Dr. Speer has been a much sought-for speaker. His wide range of knowledge (has always been an omnivorous reader), his classical and cosmopolitan culture (a rare combination today), his clear, courageous thinking and his forceful, powerful utterance made him a speaker of impressive power. Multitudes have felt the power of the man and because he was swayed by the living Christ, a great host of people have been touched and changed.

It is as a missionary statesman, however, that Robert Speer is best known. Worthy successor of Walter Lowrie, John C. Lowrie and <sup>Frank F.</sup> Ellinwood, he has achieved world-wide distinction in the field to which he has devoted his life.

For over a generation in his own Board he has carried the load, been the final court where vexing problems were carried, and upon him more than upon any other has

the responsibility of policy and action been laid.

Throughout the Protestant world it is freely and justly admitted that Dr. Speer is pre-eminent in his field. Men everywhere in these closing years of his service acknowledge him as "the master" among missionary statesmen. Among many able missionary executives and administrators, and because of many gifts and qualities, Robert Speer stands out as a mountain peak along the range of a hundred years.

Certain characteristics stand out among many in the personality and character of Robert Speer. Permit me to mention four.

1. His consecration. Like the man Paul who has so strongly influenced his life, Robert Speer early said: "This one thing I do." Few men have held so unswervingly to a life purpose, forged in the heat of youthful consecration and persevered in through sunshine and shadow down the long years. I remember his address at the General Assembly six or seven years ago on "The Old, yet ever New Call of Christ." His life-long friend, Dr. Lewis S. Mudge in a brief foreword to the address which the Assembly ordered printed, paid just tribute to Robert Speer's loyalty to a life-purpose. Time and again he has been invited to accept other positions of honor and trust, but never has he turned aside from the path God chose for him and to which he dedicated his life. With admirable single-mindedness, in unflinching pursuit of his goal, this man of many parts has pressed steadily and unflinchingly towards the mark. All his powers, all his energies, the passion of his heart, the strength of his life have been given to the one task of making Christ, the Light of the World and the only divine saviour of the World known to a world that is sinful and astray, weary and waiting for the Gospel of the Grace of God. Of this missionary of the twentieth century, it may well be said he "was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."

2. His capacity for hard work. Nothing worthwhile in this world is accomplished without hard work. Gifts and opportunities are not enough. Endowed with a great physique, which he knew how to take care of, Robert Speer toiled incessantly. As some have said of him, "he could do the work of ten men." If so, it was because he knew how to concentrate, how to order his work and buy up the flying moments, how to work

without friction and with a great consecration and joy in His Master's service. He wasted few moments. Often he sacrificed the conversation of friends for the more weight and inescapable tasks laid upon him. He early learned to sift the chaff from the wheat, to make the most of life's most precious commodity, - time - and really to labor, getting things done and not merely going through the motions. Robert Speer like Robert Murray McCheyne must have kept steadily before him the words of the Lord Jesus; "I must work the works of Him that sent me; the night cometh when no man can work."

3. His rugged character. Robert Speer is built on rugged lines. There is a massiveness about his character. "Duty" has had a preeminent place in his life. There's a squareness to his jaw and life that suggests moral strength. Superbly endowed, he has been chisled by the divine Master into spiritual granite. Many have been the blows that have beat upon him, not have been the fires that have tested and tried him. Out of it all stands clear and rock-like the pure soul-stuff of the man. As a friend of mine talking of him not long ago said: "Back of what he says and does and more than all is the sheer character of the man."

Yes, Robert Speer has made his mistakes, as all men make their mistakes, and as he looks back over the years will not need the critic's pen or voice to point them out. But I declare what honest men everywhere acknowledge, that these errors or mistakes only bring more vividly into the clear, the rugged character, the sterling soul, the Christly personality of the man.

4. His sweet intimacy with Christ. Robert Speer doesn't wear his heart on his sleeve though "his smile", someone once said, "has been worth a million dollars to the cause he serves." Some have said they found it difficult to get "near" to Robert Speer. Heavy burdens, the duty that had to be done in a given hour, the inexorableness of time, and other factors may to some have lent themselves to creating such an impression.

But to those who worked with him and came to know the man more and more, there was as much sweetness in him as there was strength. Gracious, thoughtful, finding time for the little courtesies, Robert Speer is a man of grace as well as truth.

Few men combine as he does the stern and the sweet in their character and every generation needs both.

To hear Robert Speer pray, to hear his informal devotional messages, to talk with him about the things that matter most is to sense the sweet, sure, utterly satisfying communion he has with his Saviour and Lord. Christ to him is final, the last word and the only word, and Christ, I'm sure, in the secret and intimate life, of his soul is most dear, most precious, the secret and strength of his life, his all in all.

In September he lays down his work which nearly a half-century ago he took up at the call of God. In the beautiful East Liberty Church of Pittsburgh his figure is enshrined in a glass window, the only living person there honored among the immortals.

His voice which has been heard by a multitude unnumbered and which we will hear in the picture of tonight has been preserved for our children and our children's children to hear.

But Robert Speer's monument is not in any such material remembrances. It is in living epistles across the world, in memorials of redeemed lives, in hosts of men and women who rise up to call him blessed for what he has meant to them, in the multitudes in heathen lands who have had a chance to hear the Gospel of their salvation.

For we believe that Robert Speer was raised up of God for his day and generation, that God has greatly used him and that one day he will hear the words from his Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

-----

1130 North Main St.  
Tulsa. Okla.  
Sept 3rd 1937 —

Dr. Robt. E. Speer.  
156 Fifth Ave. N.Y. City -

Dear Dr. Speer: —

It had been the hope of the A.R.'s to present you with a united testimonial at this time but it was found to be impracticable.

It is impossible to think of all the changes that have taken place, and especially of your leaving the T Board Rooms, without experiencing a sense of loss — personal loss; for while you gave up the China correspondence a good while ago, yet, I think, we all felt you were "there". Now it will not be the same for those of the old regime. It was so natural when in N.Y. that one's feet should turn into "156" but probably not so readily now.

For me to attempt to express, even though inadequately, anything approaching a



2

just appreciation of the forty-six years  
you have been there issued, I feel, be pre-  
sumptuous, but let me say - given such  
unusual endowment for the work to which  
the Lord himself set you apart, the depth of  
love you have had for Him + enduring con-  
secration to Him, one cannot wonder at the  
service of those years + of years to follow.  
I have just been reading your statement of  
your position in Some Living Issues p. 136 -  
"No language is adequate to state his con-  
ception of Christ" - No need to wonder after  
that. The wonder would be if it were otherwise.

This is already long enough - you will receive  
such an avalanche. But I want to refer to a  
word in the N. Y. Times sent to me. "He has enriched  
humanity by what he is, by what he has said (&  
how he has said it) etc. It is this in the parenthesis  
to which I refer - how you said it, how you did it.  
And I wish sincerely to thank you for kindnesses  
to me personally, since 1894.

May your remaining years be as greatly  
blessed as those that have gone -

I am very sincerely  
Lavinia M. Ralstone

## BUREAU DES EXECUTIVKOMITEES :

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 Vizepräsident: D. Alfred Jørgensen, Kopenhagen  
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GENÈVE, le August 27th, 1937

1, Rue des Photographes (Case 22, Eaux-Vives)  
Tél. 52.705

Rev. Dr. Henry S. Leiper, Federal Council,  
 New York  
 Rev. Dr. Charles Macfarland, New York  
 Rev. Dr. Cochran, Paris  
 Bischof D. Hackel, Kirchl. Aussenamt, Berlin  
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Mr. Harry Jelis, London, Ev. Continental Society  
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 General Presbyterian Alliance, Edinburgh  
 Rev. W. T. Elmslie, Gen. Sec. of the Presby-  
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 Prof. D. Eb. Vischer, Präsident d. Prof. Kirchl.  
 Hilfsvereins, Basel

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 M. le pasteur Boegner, Président de la Fédéra-  
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 Bischof Dr. Nuelsen, Zürich

Bischof Osusky, Präs. des Kirchenbundes, Bra-  
 tiislava (Tschechoslow.)  
 Colonel M. Sauter, Sec. of the Internat. Prof.  
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 i. 5586. Genf

Telegramm- und Kabeladresse:  
 Kirchenbund, Genf.

Dr. Rob. E. Speer  
 The Board of Foreign Missions  
 156 Fifth Avenue New York

My dear Dr. Speer,

I received your letter of July 14th and thank you for it. My first stay in New York was much too short to see my friends. I hope it will be easier when I come back in October for the National Preaching Mission.

But first of all let me send you my heartiest congratulations for your 70th birthday. I praise God that He gave such a life and such a man to our Church, and that He has blessed your activity so visibly with His spirit. The fact that you stood at such a post and struggled for the cause of Christ is an inspiring example for men and most of all for myself in a time when faith in men becomes more and more problematic and faith in God remains as the only thing which supports us even in our relations with men and Christians. You have always been for me an exponent of an Evangelical Christianity in America which we can understand and to which we feel nearer. That you allowed me to come, beside official relations, still nearer to your heart and opened your house for me is one of the beloved souvenirs of my journeys to America, and the same is true for Mrs. Speer.

I ask God's ample blessing on your life and especially on the years before you. I thank you also for what you did for my son who finally seems now to have discovered his way. - It was such a pleasure for me to have suddenly looked into your face when I met your daughter in the house of friends in Edinburgh.

Please give my warmest regards and congratulations to Mrs. Speer, and believe me, in the hope to see you in the fall,

Yours very thankfully

Adolf Keller

# The First Presbyterian Church

Salem, New Jersey

Sept. 8, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Dr. Speer,

It is a pleasure to know that you welcome father's book. He hoped so much to publish it, and we as a family are happy that we have been able to do so. As "grace" was one of the subjects for discussion at the Edinburgh Conference this past summer, I feel that its publication is timely.

I can imagine something of the feeling you must have, as you relinquish your office in the Board. May you have the joy of seeing the foundations you have laid well and truly built upon! I heard you tell in Princeton of some of the things you want to do, and the books you now hope to have time to read. All of us who cherish you in our affection, I am sure, hope that this may be a most fruitful and happy period in your life.

If on reading father's book any note, suitable for publication occurs to you, I should be happy to receive it for reviews which will shortly be appearing.

With kindest regards,

Yours affectionately,

*Alison R. Bryan*

THE GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

REV. FRANK FITT, MINISTER

16 LAKE SHORE ROAD

GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN

Ans. - 2/9.

September 7, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Lakeville, Connecticut.

My dear Dr. Speer:

As your 70th birthday approaches on Friday next I want to be among the many who send you heartiest congratulations for the occasion.

It is more than a mere birthday, of course, for it marks the completion of your term at the post which you have held for so long. It is not the end of your service, but the beginning of a larger service, as the "New York Times" notice yesterday intimated. May the years ahead be full of a sense of God's blessing and guidance for you.

It happens that my own birthday is on September 10th. The day that you are seventy I will be forty-eight. I shall think of the honors surrounding you as I give thanks upon my own birthday which is also yours.

Cordially yours,

Frank Fitt

---

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Sept. 8, 1937

My dear Dr. Speer, -

To a young man of seven decades [Whatever that may be!] hearty congratulations should be expressed. At any rate the number seven is a "Sacred number", and augurs good things. So, may all good things, - appropriate to the age, - come to you this year!

If you've "work laid out for twenty years" that's a good thing. Go to it! And may great joy and good be the result!

With warm regards and best wishes,

Sincerely yours

Red Williams - Anthony

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Lakerville, Conn.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK  
158 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

D13

REV. H. G. MENDENHALL  
STATED CLERK EMERITUS

Litchfield, Conn. Sept 8

Dear Dr. Sheer:-

Greetings from an antique and  
congratulations on your Birthday. This is  
an important day to you, and to our  
beloved Church, which you have served so  
long and so faithfully. While we regret  
that you withdraw from official life we  
can not let you leave us altogether  
because memory will bring to us a life  
that has been wholly given to the Master.

Dr. Pierson of Tofan is with us - he is  
Mrs Mendenhall's cousin - and he can not  
forget your kindness to him while in Tofan,  
and your familiar greetings at Rome.

May God's richest blessing be with you  
in the coming years and give to you the choice  
retrospects of the path

Sincerely

Dr. Robert E. Sheer.  
Waterville, Conn

H. G. Mendenhall

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MARTIN & CORRY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

203 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

PAUL C. MARTIN  
HOMER C. CORRY  
JOHN C. DURFEY  
OSCAR T. MARTIN, II

TELEPHONE  
MAIN 1077

September 8, 1937.

Dear Doctor Speer:

On the occasion of your birthday I should like to be among the many who I know will express their good wishes and to hope that you may have many years of happiness and usefulness.

To have reached the biblical milestone of "three score years and ten" in good health is in itself a ground for congratulations, but to have filled those years with constructive Christian service to the church and the world is an exceptional achievement.

One of the personal gratifications of my membership on the Seminary Board has been the opportunity to have occasional contacts with you, and the constant reminder of your buoyant Christian personality in the midst of problems and personal loss has been a continuing inspiration to me.

Please extend my greetings to your daughter Margaret, who was very gracious to us one Sunday afternoon last September when we called at the College in Peiping.

Cordially yours,

*Paul C. Martin*

PCM:P

Doctor Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

Ans. A17

PINE CLIFF  
SILVER BAY ON LAKE GEORGE  
NEW YORK

Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - 1937.

Dear Robert:-

Mrs. Carter and I send to you and hers. every very best wishes and our thanks again for all that you have meant to us. We have had little or no news from the office of late and so do not know what your plans are but we trust that you will first have a real good vacation together such as we have been having this summer. We have been able to direct others in fixing up the cottage but have done very little ourselves as we are accustomed to do. But there has been very real improvement and we now have the strenuous work of



packing up our belongings in Montclair, as we  
soon rented the house for three years, then we  
will motor to Clearston, Pa. to visit Dick and  
then on South to Ashville or Florida for the  
winter. Your problem will be to decide  
how much you can rightly decline to do,  
ours as to what we can find to do of some  
real service. All the children but Dick  
have been here and we have had a good  
time together even if I could not be <sup>very</sup> active.

Please be assured that we are thinking of  
you gratefully all the time and speaking of you  
constantly (we are very glad to have the new  
& lovely picture of you with the Assembly Address -  
it is as we think of you.) But how the staff and  
the Board will miss you! They will be awaiting  
your mind and word at every Bd. meeting when  
any important matter comes up. And how they  
will long for a word from you!

Our hearts go out to you and all the good,  
good friends of the Board -

affectionately Jean and Russell Carty

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**AMPERE PARKWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

209 AMPERE PARKWAY  
BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

REV. ALEXANDER CAIRNS, LL. D.  
MINISTER

TELEPHONE  
BLOOMFIELD 2-3416

Sept. 7, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer:-

May I add my word of hearty felicitation to you on the occasion of your 3-score-ten birthday.

I know your modesty and that you'll probably say: "there is none good but one; that is God."

And yet I say that in the whole Christian world there is no one more deserving of sunset joy and beauty than yourself.

I'm only an humble one of the millions who love and appreciate you for all you mean and have meant to the cause of Christ on earth.

And there is still verdantly fresh in my memory your four addresses on the Gospels at Lake Geneva when I was a student in Adrian, Michigan, and the glory of your conclusion: "It may be in the evening when the work of day is done, etc."

God bless you!

*Alexander Cairns*

111 EAST 80 STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

Ans. 4/5/9

Dear Dr Speer;

Remembering Dr Knight's deep admiration and love for you and his constant joy in your friendship as well as my own grateful appreciation of you, I send greetings to reach you on your next birthday, September 10<sup>TH</sup>.

Surely no one deserves God's richest blessings more than you and I feel sure these will continue to be poured out upon you. It is good to know Margaret is safely with you just now.

I would like to send my love to her and to dear Mrs Speer. As Dr Knight's

spirit is ever near me, we will be  
with you in spirit on your birthday,  
together wishing all inner satisfaction,  
peace and happiness for you.

Always sincerely your friend

Clara R. Day

September eight, 1937-

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship R

# WESTERN UNION

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at

NU138 7 NL=NEWYORK NY SEP 9 213  
DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY=

GRACE YUAN.

.722A.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

# WESTERN UNION

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at

NU143 27 NL=NBN NEWYORK NY SEP 9 213  
DR ROBERT SPEER=  
ROCKLEDGE LA=

CONGRATULATIONS ON THREE SCORE YEARS AND TEN UNIQUE IN AMERICA INSPIRING DEEP AFFECTION TOGETHER WITH STIMULATING LEADERSHIP OF GIVE YOU RARE CONTENT IN MANY YEARS AHEAD DEVOTEDLY=

JIM AND VERA.

.730A.

1895 Grand Concourse  
New York

Ans. Sept 9

Dear Dr. Spier:

Many, many good wishes are going out to you on this your birthday. I want to join in them and to let you know how earnestly I wish for you much happiness on this day.

While I think of "156" as so often I do, it is difficult, as I think I must have already told you, to imagine life there going on without you, but I know that you

are glad that the time has  
come for laying aside the  
burdens of the office.

It is pleasant to think  
of you in your country home,  
with your books and your  
garden and with opportuni-  
ties for continued service  
in the cause which is so  
dear to your heart. May you  
enjoy it all for many years  
to come, with Mrs. Sped to  
share it with you.

Most sincerely yours,  
Susie A. Pinder

September 10, 1937

Ans. Sept 9

2310 Chestnut St.  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1937.

My dear Dr. Speer.

The New York Times gives me the very welcome news that your daughter Margaret is to arrive in this country and that you expect her to help celebrate your birthday.

During the past weeks I have thought much about her, and I rejoice that she is to be at home with you and Mrs. Speer at this time.

I am glad, too, to learn the date of your birthday, for I have been wanting to send my congratulations and best-wishes. To these I add my



hope and prayer that to you may be given the years and the continuing health and strength to accomplish the "work laid out for twenty years."

As I think of your "retirement," it is with devout thanksgiving for the wealth and far-reaching influence of your life devoted to Christ in work for Missions and for the Church at home, and I look forward to what you will be doing in these other years which we hope are to come. I put aside the regrets which sometimes do arise that your

retirement is at this time when, in some of our Mission fields, there are special problems which cause deep concern, for I know that you will be ready to give consideration and counsel as they may be needed.

On the occasion of this birthday, I want to express to you my deep gratitude for all the sympathy, and help, and comfort which you have given to me, and to tell you and Mrs. Spur once more how greatly I prize your friendship which has en-

riched my life.

Hoping that this may be a  
day of peculiar blessing to both  
of you and to all your family.

I am, Sincerely yours,

Aunt B. West.

60  
27  
48 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street,  
New York.

September 6<sup>th</sup> 1937.

Dear D. Spear,

I have read with much interest in today's Times that your birthday will be on Friday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, and wish to send my best wishes.

Many years have passed since I received a letter from you which I have treasured. It is dated Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 1908, and refers to a poem written by the Rev. C. A. S. Smith, about my father, Captain Craven U. S. N., who gave his life when his ship was sinking <sup>in battle</sup>, saying, "After you, pilot."

You told me that you have "many times cited his act as an illustration of the true Christian spirit." You mentioned also that you had seen Sir Henry Newbolt's poems.

You may like to know that three ships have been named for my father, and for each one I have been designated sponsor by the Secretary of the Navy. The first was launched at Bath, Maine, on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1899.

The second was launched at Norfolk Navy Yard, Va., on June 29<sup>th</sup> 1918, a glorious occasion. The third was also a wonderful occasion, on February 25<sup>th</sup> 1937.

at Quincy, Mass., with brilliant sunshine,  
hundreds of persons present, and a  
beautiful luncheon given ~~for~~<sup>me with</sup> about  
one hundred guests, in the Bethlehem  
Shipbuilding Corporation's building.

The dear ship was commissioned  
on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1927, at the  
Navy Yard, Charlestown, Mass.

You may be interested to know  
that the name Craven is derived from  
Craig-fen, strong rock, and that  
our family motto is "Virtus in  
actione consistit", which well  
defines the character of my  
father.

I am venturing to hope that

you may have time to reply to my  
letter.

With every best wish for blessings  
for you.

Yours most sincerely,  
Ellin Craven Learned.

(Mrs Frank Learned.)

Dr. S.

SMITH COLLEGE  
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND BIBLICAL LITERATURE

September 6, 1937

Dear Doctor Speer:

In today's New York Times I read of the approach of your seventieth birthday on Friday. How Time does march on; but how timeless some values and some facts remain.

My thoughts went back to Northfield and my own student years and of the abiding debt I owe to you for the clear and vivid picture and awareness of the Living Christ you gave to me. That sense of his Presence remains my most treasured possession in life, and the sharing of his Life my most conscious responsibility.

Had our student generation taken more seriously the Gospel which was proclaimed at Northfield the world would not now be in so sad a state of confusion and conflict. I was never more certain, Socialist though I am, that no economic system, no form of government, no external arrangement can ever do for man that which man needs most sorely; that only as the Living Christ is planted under the crust of our pagan civilization and our personal lives can the Kingdom of God come with power.

Each June I take a group of my seniors to Northfield and we hold a last meeting on Round Top. I try to share with them the high things that are associated in my mind and heart with that spot.

May God bless you for many more years of service to the one King to whom we can pledge unqualified loyalty.

S. Ralph Harlow



6  
4  
37

53 Bridgeport Rd.  
Waterloo, Ontario  
Canada

Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 1937

Mr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Speer,

Most hearty  
congratulations and may the  
8<sup>th</sup> be a day of joy, peace and  
gladness, with each succeeding  
brighter than the preceding one.  
Your life and work has meant  
much to me and to many au-  
other. Your kindness and help-  
ful interest in Miss Wilder's plaw  
shall never be forgotten. Those  
were dark days. You champion.

the cause and our hearts overflowed with gratitude. You have surely laid up much treasure in heaven. I'm grateful to our heavenly Father for what you have done, or rather allowed Him to do through you.

You certainly deserve a rest but all who are in touch with the Board rooms will greatly miss you, yet we shall feel that your spirit is there. May the coming days gather more abundant fruit.

All good wishes and His best  
be yours.

Sincerely and gratefully  
(Mrs. J. P.) Emily S. Graham

Permanent address

1516 N. Los Robles Ave. Pasadena, Cal.

ans. 4/19

67 Whitney Ave.,  
New Haven, Conn.,  
Sept. 6, 1937

Dear Dr. Speer,

I have just noticed in the "New York Times" that you are to have a birth-day too. I surely want to be one of the many who will offer congratulations. And I do congratulate you with all my heart. You have lived a grand life upon earth during your seventy years. You have labored sincerely, nobly and effectively for the establishment of God's Kingdom.

It is a glory, higher and purer than which there is none. And I not only congratulate you; I also thank you. The example of your life has brought <sup>rare</sup> cheer and inspiration to many other sincere lives.

You say that you have work laid out to occupy your time for twenty years yet. I think at Asbury Park last January you said, <sup>ten</sup> Well, surely, so much the better, and I hope and pray that you may live those twenty years yet.

I am glad that your daughter Margaret is to

be with you and Mrs. Speer  
on the happy occasion. It  
will be a great relief to you  
to have her away from the  
danger in China. Our Mar-  
garet and her husband  
have just returned to Japan.

Oh, my heart just bleeds  
over the situation in the  
Orient. Never did I expect  
to see such a calamity there  
as we see now. I fear we  
missionaries have not  
worked hard enough.

Mrs. Schneider and I are  
living here in New Haven  
with our daughter, who is  
married to a Dr. Burr,

DPT

GEORGE Z. COLLIER  
113 KNOWER AVENUE  
SCHOHARIE, N. Y.

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1933.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Though personally unacquainted with you, permit me (a retired Minister of the Reformed Church in America, to extend hearty congratulations upon your attainment of the "Three Score Years and Ten", reached by me more than five years ago.

I am glad to read that you have work laid out for twenty years, which I hope you may be spared to perform.

"The Missionary Review of the World" I have read during my entire Ministry

Threescore

Years

And

Ten

9

### THE MISSIONARY CALL

by  
George Zabriskie Collier

(An antiphonal response to Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar.")

Sunrise and Morning Star!  
How clear Life's call to me  
To send Christ's words of peace and love afar,  
Across earth's storm-tossed sea!

With ceaseless motion, eager and awake,  
'Mid Babel sounds I roam,  
And cast on waters deep, that all may take,  
Bread of my Home.

Noon-tide, — again the bell, —  
"Work on, — 'tis not yet dark, —  
With faith and courage; say not yet 'Farewell',  
Nor disembark."

To every land and each long-waiting race,  
Life's flood will bear me far,  
My Pilot with me always, face to face,  
Before I cross Death's bar.

Middleburgh, N. Y., February 7, 1925.

and it has been my privilege to have  
heard you on several occasions.  
Hoping that many more such  
yearly anniversaries may be yours,  
Very cordially yours,  
George Zabriskie Collier.

Threescore

Years

And

Ten



### THE MISSIONARY CALL

by  
George Zabriskie Collier

(An antiphonal response to Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar.")

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To send Christ's words of peace and love afar,  
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With ceaseless motion, eager and awake,  
'Mid Babel sounds I roam,  
And cast on waters deep, that all may take,  
Bread of my Home.

Noon-tide, — again the bell, —  
"Work on, — 'tis not yet dark, —  
With faith and courage; say not yet "Farewell,"  
Nor disembark."

To every land and each long-waiting race,  
Life's flood will bear me fur,  
My Pilot with me always, face to face,  
Before I cross Death's bar.

Middleburgh, N. Y., February 7, 1925.

1862 - 1932

BY GEORGE ZABRISKIE COLLIER

When threescore years and ten I reached,  
I thought how far away once seemed  
That goal about which Moses preached,  
That star that in the distance gleamed.

That far-off milestone now is past;  
Yet youth seems scarcely more than gone.  
Life's race, once long, I've run so fast,  
That youth and age blend into one.

I different look, no doubt men say;  
But I am sure I am the same  
As when I used to romp and play,  
And join with zest some boyhood game.

What then I was and did I know,  
Has made my life what now it is.  
No thought or deed has failed, I trow,  
To blaze my path toward woe or bliss.

These seventy years I cannot view  
As ending what makes life worth while;  
I hope to roam in pastures new,  
If I should miss the fourth-score mile.

Life real is, though short it seems.  
Surely we cannot think that we  
Shall cease to be, like vanished dreams,  
Or vessels sunk beneath the sea.

And so, with forward look and tread,  
I pass the threescore years and ten,  
With few or many years ahead,  
Until earth's course is run:—and then!

Schoharie, N. Y., April 9th, 1932.



2/29

520 E. 86<sup>th</sup> St.

Exp. 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Robert,

We offer our glad Praises  
and thanks giving's for all  
that God has given to the  
world in your beautiful  
life and we send our  
love to you. Thanks  
you for having a birthday  
so that we may say what  
sings itself over and over

in our hearts - God bless  
Robert Gray!

With greetings from all  
our circle here - We know  
how there there are joining  
with Halleburghs - in our  
happy hopes and wishes.

Yours in loving friendship  
Florence Day Stormen

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
PRINCETON, N. J.

Behind are joys, fond hopes that found fulfilment,  
Sweet fellowships, glad toil of hand and brain.  
Unanswered prayers, burdens of loss and sorrow,  
Faces that look no more in ours again.

Before us lie the hills, sunlit with promise,  
Fairer fulfilments than the past could know,  
New growths of soul, new leadings of the Spirit,  
And all the glad surprises God will show.

- Frederick Lucian Hosmer

*This was sent to Ross a year ago and  
he thought it fine.  
F. D. S.*

449

A Birthday Greeting to

Robert E. Speer.

Sept 10 - 1937.

Blessings be upon thee - you who feel  
man

working more books which the  
world will read

Building more walls on your  
rock-bound farm

chop and more load your skin  
to keep warm

---

none can excel the great work  
you have done

none can attain to the love you  
have won

Leaving your fellows behind in  
the race

challenging stripship to keep  
up your pace



friends near and far hail the  
day of your birth

grateful to God for your out-  
standing work

thank you as well for the years  
yet assigned

and the service you'd bring to  
the world & mankind

J.R.S.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROSEDALE  
NEW YORK CITY

REV. ALBERT A. LEININGER, M. A.  
MINISTER

THE MANSE  
241-14 MEMPHIS AVENUE  
PHONE  
LAURELTON 8-8448

Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer.  
Lakeville, Conn.

246

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Congratulations to you on your  
70<sup>th</sup>. Birthday tomorrow and best  
wishes on that 20 year program  
which you have planned.

You have helped me many times.  
I have never read a book or articles  
of yours - nor have I ever heard a  
sermon or address which has not  
been very helpful to me - And so have  
you been to millions of others - May you  
be used for yet many years is my  
hope and my prayer.

Cordially Yours -  
Albert A. Leininger.

September 9, 1937

216

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Rockledge,  
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I know that the Executive Council as a whole has sent you a word of greeting for your birthday, but I want to send also my own personal word of congratulation and best wishes. I suspect that one does not reach the Biblical limit of man's usual period of life with feelings of unalloyed happiness. There is so much yet to be done, so many opportunities for having a part in what is to be done, that I feel sure one would like to begin all over and relive the seventy years which are supposed to limit one's activities. Yet I am also sure that your last years will be the best, not only in activity but in your personal happiness. That at least is my desire for you and Mrs. Speer as you now lay down the routine responsibility of the office and will be able to spend a little more time at home and in the pursuits that are more congenial to your mind and heart.

I think I am right in saying that there is no one, either on the Board or on the Executive Staff, who can look back to a longer period of comradeship with you than that which I have enjoyed, and it is a matter of great satisfaction to me, as I recall our years of work together, that I have never had from you a word, written or spoken, which showed irritation on your part, although I need not tell you that during these past forty years I have undoubtedly given you reason for many a headache and no doubt merited less favorable treatment than I have always received from you as secretary. I merely want you to know that I appreciate all this and value more than I can tell you the opportunity I have had of having been associated with you during this long period of years.

May you go with God, - as the Spanish puts it, - and may He give you and Mrs. Speer much happiness together in the years that lie ahead.

Affectionately,

*Webster E. Browning*

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.  
156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

SECRETARY

September 8, 1937.

R. E. Speer, D.D.,  
"Rockledge",  
Lakeville, Connecticut

My dear Mr. Speer:

After very much discussion and study of various plans for the coming Board meeting and the following dinner, the Board's Committee, yesterday, decided to hold the meeting as usual in the Assembly Room of this building and to have the dinner in Schrafft's Restaurant at 220 West 57th Street.

I promised to let you know about this matter and am therefore, sending this note and am also sending a copy of the letter calling the Board.

We had a very helpful and harmonious meeting up at Vassar, but to me, at least, it was something like "Hamlet" with the Prince of Denmark failing to appear. As we say down in my part of the world, "Paciencia"!

With very kind regards to you and Mrs. Speer and especially to Margaret, who I understand, has reached home, I am

Very sincerely,

Webster E. Browning.

WEB/W



## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

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Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at

LAKEVILLE, CONN.

.NAM31 11=MS NEWYORK NY SEP 10 1153A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

=ROCKLEDGE LA=

LOVING BIRTHDAY GREETINGS AND WARMEST WISHES FROM DEVOTED  
NON RETIRING FRIENDS=

ALL AT 156.

.1244P.

New York, N.Y.  
September 10, 1937

26

Our dear Robert Speer:

Your closest comrades in arms salute you on this day which marks your attainment of the venerable age of "three-score years and ten," venerable not at all in the sense of "doddering senility," but truly venerable as by your life and work you have proved yourself worthy of all honor and affection.

We congratulate you on your long life, its accomplishments, and its world-wide influence, and we also congratulate you on the well-earned privilege which is now yours, of laying down the official responsibility which you have borne with such consummate courage and devotion for more than forty-six years. We shall not think of pointing out to you various lines of post-retirement activity, as was done by a strenuous contemporary six years ago, but we know that the mellow post-retirement years which we trust may be given you will see no abatement of your purpose to make the world brighter and better for your continued presence in it. Though life will be far from "beginning" for you at seventy, it will be as far from ending, and we shall feel assured that your long and broad experience will be at our disposal as of old when we get into the hard places, the tight places, in our wrestling with the home and field problems which may increase rather than diminish with the passing years. We shall sorely miss this invaluable counsel constantly at hand.

But we would not only congratulate you on your birthday and express to you our keen sense of loss in your retirement; our greetings at this time come from deep down in our hearts, where you have a unique place, "air-conditioned," knowing no change with the seasons of the year, or the blowing of the winds, but the same yesterday and today and "as long as we both shall live." We love you, Robert Speer, and are happily assured that you love us, and so with all our hearts we wish you a "happy birthday" and as "many happy returns" as shall find you enjoying the sweetness and the fruitfulness of "the life hid with Christ in God."

Most affectionately,

Franklin Mack	Frederick Schultz	Courtenay H. Turner
Mary E. Turner	William P. Shell	George T. Scott
Anna T. D. ...	Mary E. Moore	Charles ...
Allen Kittledge	Clarence C. ...	Ernest F. Hall
Kenneth W. Moore	Ruth Elliott	Ray Dodds
Harriet B. Young	Mary Kerr Legend	Irene Sheppard
George H. Hill	Webster E. Banning	James E. Wheeler
Ned Dodd		

D3

114 COLUMBUS DRIVE  
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY

September 9, 1937

Dear Uncle Rob,

It is not often that I have a chance to send greetings for a twentieth birthday so herewith go my very best! I know you will have a delightful day in Lakeville with your family and particularly with Nannie back.

Some day during the fall when you and Aunt Emma are there, Peggy and I hope to drive up to Lakeville and see you both.

With every good wish for  
many years to come,

Affectionately;

Sheafe

D13

114 COLUMBUS DRIVE  
TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY

Sept. 9, 1937

My dear Uncle Rob:

He these send on  
love and best birthday wishes

for tomorrow and the coming  
year. I am happy Marie is

with you.

He saw the good picture  
of you in Monday's Times.

Please tell Aunt Emma  
that Mrs. Colman died in the  
Halle Reed Hospital in Washington

early on Monday morning. I feel  
particularly sorry for Alice as Mrs.  
Clynes was like her Mother, her  
Mother having died when she was  
three weeks old.

Also tell Aunt Frances I said  
'Fort Washington' being on the 8th  
Avenue subway for the bridge whereas  
I should have said Washington  
Heights. Aunt Frances probably knew  
that, but it has worried me. I  
hope to have Grace here.  
Aunt Frances I had a nice  
week at "Riverview" but I was  
sorry not to see you. With love,  
Peggy

24<sup>31</sup>  
8.

28 Edgemont Ave,  
Summit, N. J.  
September 2 1937.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Through friend I  
have just heard that you have  
either laid down your respon-  
sibilities at 156 or are to do  
so very soon.

What a triumvirate the  
Board had in yourself, Dr.  
Brown and Dr. Halsey! any  
board would have been fortunate  
to have any one of you and  
we had all three! we will I  
hope be pardoned in thinking  
of this as the golden age of  
our Board of Foreign Missions.

I wish that I could hope  
to see you oftener in your

retirement. That you will  
keep usefully busy I know.  
I do hope that our paths  
cross from time to time.

While I can never tell you  
all that you have meant to  
me I can say with perfect  
honesty that you have meant  
a great deal across the years.

Agnes joins me in the sure  
hope that Mrs. Speer and  
yourself will find life good  
down to the very end. We  
would both like very much  
to do something little for  
you and Mrs. Speer in  
return for all that you  
have done for us.

Yours affectionately  
Ralph B. Nesbitt.



THE HAWTHORNES  
COOPERSTOWN  
NEW YORK

23

Sept 8. 1934

Dear Dr Speer

You ~~were~~ so beloved by the whole Browning family and now are so by my wife as the sole survivor of it because of your being a classmate of their son and brother Prentiss and your subsequent great missionary career and are beloved by me because of the letter and my great admiration and respect for your ability and leadership in our Presbyterian faith that we cannot allow the day to go by without sending

with even greater clarity  
power now that we appear  
to be on the edge of a world  
chaos worse by far than was  
the case twenty three to twenty-  
nine years ago.

In the chaos fostered at  
Washington which threatens  
not only our personal  
liberties but our faith and  
our properties we who are of  
the older generation look to you  
to aid us in keeping our  
feet on the ground, sanity  
in our minds and faith in  
the triumph of Our Lord's life  
and teaching.

My wife says that it seems  
but yesterday that she heard  
the Valedictory delivered

to you an expression of our  
esteem and Congratulation upon  
attaining the three score years  
and ten in age

We warmly and most affection-  
ately congratulate you upon  
your distinguished career  
the great service you have  
rendered to our church,  
and to <sup>the</sup> cause of Jesus Christ  
at large. You are not to  
retire and repose and do noth-  
ing. We wish you yet many  
happy years of usefulness in  
your chosen field though you  
may not carry so heavy an  
official burden.

Your influence in the  
Master's cause and your spoken  
and written words must bring

by you at Princeton which  
had so profound an impression  
upon the minds of your listen-  
ers and preshadowed your  
own great career

We repeat our best wishes  
for yet many happy years  
for you and our greetings  
to Mrs Speer and your  
children and congratulations  
to them upon having you  
as husband and father

Affectionately,  
May Browning Loesch  
and Frank J. Loesch

September 8. 88

1888

PINE CREST  
KEENE VALLEY, ESSEX CO.  
NEW YORK

My dear Dr. Spear

I wish I could express in words what knowing you has meant to me: My heart goes out in deepest gratitude to God that for so many years I have had the great privilege of counting you as one of my warmest friends. You have always been such an inspiration to me and just the thought of you and the great work you have done

and are still doing. to bring  
Christ into the lives of all nations,  
has given me the faith and  
courage to carry on in the small  
way I have been able to do.

It is hard to look forward to  
living in New York without you  
and Mrs. Speer there! "156" will  
never seem the same without  
you! I know all Presbyterians  
feel the same.

May God bring you the rest  
you must need & may the years  
to come be full of peace and joy,  
which you have brought into the  
lives of thousands of others.

With deepest affection

Laidie T. S. Merle-Smith

Wishing You  
"ANOTHER HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY"



MAY "Another Happy Birthday!"  
Bring joy beyond all measure  
To one whose loyal friendship  
I'm mighty glad to treasure!



Mrs. Mabel Smith



THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

September 11th, 1937

*JS*

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Lakeville  
Connecticut

My dear Dr. Speer:

Yesterday Mrs. Mackay and I sent you a greeting from ourselves and the children. How many happy memories and associations crowd my mind as I think of what the last twenty-seven years of your life have meant to me, before you fulfilled the three-score and ten! They have been woven inextricably into the texture of my own life. and thought, and what a joy it is to think that whatever other official connections you may have with groups or organizations, you will be linked to us here in Princeton Seminary, where we look forward to new opening horizons.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

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Received at LAKEVILLE, CONN.  
NW130 17 SC=PRINCETON NJ  
DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

*JS*

"AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS ON THIS HISTORIC DAY AND EVERY  
GOOD WISH FOR MANY YEARS OF CONTINUING YOUTH AHEAD."  
THE MACKAY FAMILY.

220P.

Jan 8 '37

NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, J

Meanwhile we should be greatly obliged for a pronouncing dictionary of Gaelic names, though we never know any more than that of the language which PIUS XI has gloriously called *lingua gloriosa*.

### A DOMINANT LEADER

The Moderator and Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church United States of America have joined in a tribute to ROBERT SPEER, who for nearly a half-century has been the "dominant leader" in what is now the largest Foreign Mission Board in the world. It is agreed by these two highest officers of the church, temporary and permanent, that FRANCIS MAKAMIE was the outstanding Presbyterian personality in the Colonial period; that JOHN WITHERSPOON "epitomized" the influence and significance of this church in the Revolutionary period, reaching their culmination in the organization of the first General Assembly and the National Government; that CHARLES HODGE represented the highest scholarship and statesmanship of this church in the nineteenth century; and that ROBERT SPEER occupies a "towering position" in practically all the great evangelical Christian movements in the closing days of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth—so many years that he has reached the age of retirement. He will deserve a permanent place in the company of the great ecclesiastical statesmen of the earlier periods, it is believed. But it is the hope of all who know him that he will live on, though unofficially, ministering to a world that needs more than ever his counsel and his pervading influence. He has enriched humanity by what he is, by what he has said (and how he has said it) and by what he has done in pursuing and achieving the chief end of man.

Apr 6, 37

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6



WILL BE 70 ON FRIDAY  
Dr. Robert E. Speer

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKEVILLE, Conn., Sept. 5.—Dr. Robert E. Speer, who retired last May as secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, plans to celebrate his seventieth birthday on Friday. A daughter, Miss Margaret Bailey Speer, dean of women at Yenching University, Peiping, China, who is to arrive in the United States tomorrow on furlough, will be among the members of the family present. Others will be Mrs. Speer and a son, William, who is a teacher at Shady Hill School, Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Speer, who plans to close his city home at 24 Gramercy Park, New York City, in the Fall, and to live here permanently, said today that he had "work laid out for twenty years," including the writing of additional books on missions.

ALL IN A GARDEN FAIR  
Postcard No. 2358

Copyright London  
Printed in England

After the original Paintings by Flora Pilkington  
Raphael Tuck & Sons "OUIETTE"



# TUCK'S POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE



(FOR ADDRESS ONLY.)

Words are inadequate to express my love  
and admiration and gratitude for your life.  
May the seventieth birthday be the happiest  
one yet. And may the picture of this "fair  
garden" remind you of yours in which  
surely God himself walks.

Margaret E. Hodge

112 Great France Lane Chestnut Hill

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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### Received at

NAA77 30 NL 1 EXTRA=SARATOGASPRINGS NY 9  
DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

107

PASSING THRU & READ OF YOUR BIRTHDAY WE GIVE THANKS FOR  
YOUR YEARS OF MARVELOUS AND CONSECRATED SERVICE AND PRAY  
THAT MANY MORE BE GRANTED CONGRATULATIONS AND AFFECTIONATE  
GREETINGS=

MR & MRS GEORGE A KENNEDY SANFRANCISCO.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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Received at LAKEVILLE, CONN.

NAA54 83 DL XC DUXBURY MASS SEP 11 1000A

DR ROBERT E SPEARE=  
ROCKLEDGE CONN=

217

EDITH AND I JOIN WITH EMMA AND YOUR CHILDREN IN LOOKING UP TO YOU WITH ADMIRATION AND LOVE ON YOUR REACHING THREE SCORE AND TEN YESTERDAY I ESPECIALLY CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE MARVELOUS WAY YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN GUIDING YOUR WIFE TO NECOME SUCH A FINE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER YOU TWO WORKING TOGETHER HAVE BEEN GREATLY BLESSED IN YOUR SERVICE TO THE MASTER AND HUMANITY AND OUR PRAYER IS THAT YOU WILL BOTH BE SPARED FOR MANY YEARS TO CARRY ON WITH AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS=

SCOTT.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

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Received at LAKEVILLE, CONN.

NAM28 10 1 EXTRA=SC=WILKESBARRE PENN

DR ROBERT E SPEER=  
ROCKLEDGE LA=

217

LOVE CONGRATULATIONS BEST WISHES FOR MANY MORE INSPIRED YEARS=

THE WELLES FAMILY GLENSUMMITSPRINGS.

# THE RELIGIOUS DRAMA FELLOWSHIP

of the  
Universities and Colleges

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

ELLIOT FIELD

54 S. State Street

DOVER, DELAWARE

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ELLIOT FIELD

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FRED EASTMAN  
HAROLD A. EHRENSPERGER

*Organized By*

The Triennial Conference of Church  
Workers in Universities and Colleges,  
Chicago, December 29-31, 1936.

*Purpose*

To unite church workers and leaders  
of drama on the campus in a fellow-  
ship of mutual inspiration, inter-  
change of experience and cooperative  
effort to raise the standards of re-  
ligious drama.

September 9, 1937

47

My dear Robert:

I wish to join with your many, many friends the world over in greeting you on your birthday. I am sure that it must bring joy to your heart to know that you are so much to so many people and that their affection rises in a mighty chorus on this significant mile stone day, a day which we honor but which we have dreaded vastly more than you could, since it takes you, not away from us, but from your post of leadership which has so blessed our Church. Your friendship has been a fountain of strength and inspiration to me, more than you can ever know, for it has been on the battlefield of the heart's desires when I needed a strong hand on mine, that you were present, although you knew it not. And for that hour at Clifton, when my heart was breaking, and you were there, I am ever grateful.

May these sunset years glow with beauty and with peace for you who have mediated to us thousands so much of beauty and peace and courage.

Affectionately

Elliot

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**OF**  
**FOREIGN MISSIONS**

POST OFFICE BOX 330  
 NASHVILLE, TENN.

September 10, 1937

207



"LIBERATE"

FULTON  
 SECRETARY



113 SIXTEENTH AVE. S.

Rev. Robert E. Speer  
 Lakeville  
 Connecticut

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am in receipt this morning of your letter of September 8 with its very generous offer to give us from 25 to 50 copies of the volume you have just completed on George Bowen of Bombay.

I am just writing to thank you very warmly for this offer and to say that we would count ourselves very fortunate to receive from 25 to 50 copies if you can afford us as many as that. We shall gladly take care of the postage and mail these books out to a selected group of missionaries that we think would derive special interest and profit from such a volume.

I can not let this opportunity pass without speaking again of my very great admiration for you and my deep appreciation of the great service you have rendered the whole Christian cause during your long term as Secretary of Foreign Missions. It is impossible for me to contemplate your retirement from active service without feeling a deep sense of loss. Somehow it seems that your withdrawal from active work leaves a tremendous gap in the whole leadership of the Missionary Movement. I can only pray that God may raise up in this hour others who will take the lead with the same courage and conviction that has characterized your own enviable record.

With warm personal regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

*E. Ruby Fulton*

CDF/d

## AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

INCORPORATED 1812

14 BEACON STREET      BOSTON, MASS.

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TEL. CAPITOL 1750

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BUSINESS AGENT	HARVEY L. MEEKEN

#### NEWS BUREAU

EDITOR	MISS CUSHING
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YEAR BOOK AND ANNUAL REPORT EDITOR	MISS KNAPP
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ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN  
GRACE H. KNAPP

September 10, 1937

D-7

Rev. Robert E. Speer, LL.D.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Robert:

Before answering in any final form your inquiry of September 8 with reference to your generous offer of your Bowen book to the Board and selected missionaries, I must consult our Foreign Secretaries. As I cannot do that today I will simply acknowledge your letter now and write you no later than next Monday, the 13th.

I cut out your picture the other day when I saw it in a New York paper and was going to write you a word of congratulation over your having enough work to keep you busy for the next twenty years. We all have to come to the retiring point, but what a blessing it is to have so much ahead in the way of work!

I am inclined to think that your Lakeville home will be a sort of Mecca for many years to come. I believe, too, it will be a kind of Ashram where we shall want to come and talk over the deeper things of life with you. And as for administrative and other questions, these, too, will be laid before you -- Genro Speer, our Elder Statesman.

You certainly have been a tower of strength to tens of thousands of us, and I don't believe that we are going to let you go off into the mountains to live alone "unsought, unwept, in all the bitterness of desolation." The paths to your door will be worn deep like the old Indian trails across the hills and through the valleys.

As ever,

Yours in the fellowship,



Enoch F. Bell

PAUL DE SCHWEINITZ, D. D.  
EPISCOPUS FRATRUM  
(I. E. BISHOP OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH)

217

32 WEST MARKET STREET, BETHLEHEM, PA.

1867 September 10<sup>th</sup> 1937

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Mrs. de S. and I wish to extend to you our sincerest congratulations upon the completion of the 7th decade of an exceptionally useful and richly blest life. How many hundreds and hundreds of people all over the world have <sup>new</sup> helped, strengthened, inspired, encouraged, and upheld by your spoken, written and printed word! And how you have been used by our blessed Lord in the upbuilding of His Kingdom!

I understand that the Presbyterian Board has a compulsory retiring age, and that 70 is the fatal (?) age, but we know that neither for Justices of the Supreme Court nor for Mission Secretaries does that mark the decline of mental powers, and while you will be technically retired you will go right on working in one way or another, and we wish you continued blessing in all your activities.

Just at this time it must be a relief to be released from direct responsibility. Our keenest sympathies go out to all Mission~~s~~/Boards, which have missions in China and Japan. Is it not an awful situation? Naturally our sympathies are with China.

It is needless for me to say, that our friendship and contacts with you form~~ed~~ some of the happiest experiences of our lives.

God bless you!

With kind greetings to Mrs. Speer from both of us and with renewed expression of good wishes for you I am  
Faithfully yours,

*Paul de Schweinitz*

Just as I was about to seal this letter your kind offer about the memoir of George Bowen of Bombay came in. You know I am no longer a member of our Board, having resigned and retired as of date of May 1st, 1937 (you know I ~~am~~ am in my 75<sup>th</sup> year), but I will take up this matter with the President of our Board and let you know as soon as I can. P. de S.



# WESTERN UNION

### CLASS OF SERVICE

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### SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
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R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at

LAKEVILLE, CONN

NY 169 10=MO NEWYORK NY

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA

47

=A BLESSED SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY PRAISE GOD FOR YOUR FRUITFUL MINISTRY=

RACHEL K MCDOWELL..

DIT



My dear old Bob,

May I add my little note to the chorus of affection + esteem that must be rising to your ears in your retirement. on attaining the age of Seventy years. Yours has been a splendid life - a useful life - and one of which you and your friends may justly be proud. A long life to you, old man, and more power to your elbow.

Received at

NU141 10 NL=NEWYORK NY. SEP 9

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

217

THE NANKING BOARD OF FOUNDERS EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS AND  
BEST WISHES=

ASSOCIATED CHINA COLLEGES.

.727A.

Received at

LAKEVILLE, CONN.

NU147 39 6 EXTRA NL=NEWYORK NY SEP 9

ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

As

WE JOIN THE CHORUS OF FRIENDLY FELICITATION UPON YOUR  
ANNIVERSARY AND ANTICIPATE WITH YOU MANY YEARS OF RICH  
SERVICE RELEASED FROM HUMDRUM ADMINISTRATION YOUR RICH  
CONTRIBUTION TO COOPERATIVE UNDERTAKINGS WILL BE GREATLY  
MISSED=

FLORENCE G TYLER A L WARNSHUIS LESLIE B MOSS.

NU149 39 NL=LITCHFIELD CONN SEP 9

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

217

DEAR MR SPEER ON THIS YOUR SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY PERMIT ME  
TO EXTEND TO YOU AND MRS SPEER MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS  
MAY THE TIME BE GRANTED YOU TO COMPLETE YOUR WORK WHICH  
SEEMS SO NECESSARY TO ALL YOURS VERY SINCERELY=

IRENE CASSELL.

.741A.

University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia

MS  
—

10 September 1937

My dear Doctor Speer:

From a note in  
the New York Times I learn that to-  
day is your seventieth birthday;  
and I cannot resist taking the  
opportunity to send a word of  
greeting in celebration of this  
anniversary. I am one of the  
many thousands who in these  
three score and ten years have  
been helped by knowing you. A  
decade has passed since my

fourteen years at the University of  
Nanking. But that period is vivid  
in my memory; and through it  
all runs the remembrance of  
your wise guidance and support,  
and of the spiritual invigoration  
that came from your occasional  
visits to Jack Williams's home  
in Nanking!

Mrs. Clemons is at present  
with Mother Jenkins in Plainfield,  
New Jersey. But she would very  
much wish to join me in the  
hope that you may leave before  
you many more years of continued

blessing.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Clemons

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Received at

NU135 16 NL 4 EXTRA=NEWYORK NY SEP 9 M==

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA= AS

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO YOU AND ALL GOOD WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS=

MABEL T EVERETT AND EDITH M DABB.

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Received at

NAC138 FT=NEWYORK NY

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA= AS

GREETINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY AND SINCERE GOOD WISHES FOR MANY MORE TO COME=

HERRICK B YOUNG.

.628P..

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at

.NAM38 10=MS NEWYORK NY SEP 10 1223P

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA= AS

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO MY SEVENTY YEAR YOUNG FRIEND=

R E DIFFENDORFER.

1255P.

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Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City.

NBH234 35 DL XC :=CRESTON IOWA 10 945A

7 SEP 10 11 4

REV ROBERT E SPEER=  
156 FIFTH AVE=

*Di4*

GREETINGS FROM CORNING PRESBYTERY OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WITH  
GRATITUDE TO GOD FOR YOUR FAITHFUL AND EFFICIENT SERVICE IN  
HIS KINGDOM OUR PRAYER IS THAT YOU MAY KNOW MANY MORE HAPPY  
AND FRUITFUL YEARS IN HIS SERVICE=  
A E KISER STATED CLERK.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at

LAKEVILLE, CONN.

NE23 7 XC=LARCHMONT NY SEP 10 1032A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

*Di9*

VERY BEST LOVE FROM ALL THE RUSSELLS=  
UNSIGNED.

1059,

Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City.

7 SEP 10 11 11

NBH217 19 XC=VANBUREN ARK 10 928A

DOCTOR ROBERT E SPEER=

156 5 AVE RD TO DLY NYK=

*Di9*

FTSMITH PRESBYTERY SENDS CORDIAL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES  
ON YOUR BIRTHDAY WE APPRECIATE YOUR GREAT SERVICE TO THE  
CHURCH=

WILLIAM B MILLER STATED CLERK.



Received at

NEWLY, CONN.

NAM43 FT=MS NEWYORK NY

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

*Dtg*

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY MAY I BE GRANTED THE JOY  
OF WISHING YOU MANY MORE HAPPY ONES=

W P STEVENSON.

Received at

NEWVILLE, CONN.

NU144 35 NL XC=M THERMON MASS SEP 9

ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

*Dtg*

THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE NORTHFIELD SCHOOLS  
MEETING HERE TODAY REMEMBERED APPRECIATIVELY AND WITH DEEP  
AFFECTION YOUR BIRTHDAY ON FRIDAY WITH MANY THANKS WE SEND  
PERSONAL AND UNITED WISHES FOR HEALTHY AND HAPPY YEARS  
AHEAD=

DAVID R PORTER.

732A.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and by letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin.

Received at

NEWVILLE, CONN.

NAM34 21 DL 9 EXTRA=UD NEWYORK NY SEP 10 1141A

DOCTOR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

*Dtg*

GRATEFULLY REMEMBERING A GOOD AND GRACIOUS FRIEND TODAY  
AND SENDING AFFECTIONATE WISHES=

WILLIAM AND MARY HAYES DR & MRS WM VAN V HAYES

GREENWICH CONN.

.1246P.

NN25 17 VIA MS=WASHINGTON DC

REV DR ROBERT E SPEER=

24 GRAMERCY PARJ=

217

THE MINISTERS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COVENANT CHURCH  
REJOICE IN YOUR LONG SERVICE TO THE KINGDOM=

ALBERT JOSEPH MCCARTNEY.

218

Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago

(Established in Chicago by Cyrus H. McCormick)

OF THE PRESIDENT  
BELDEN AVENUE

September 15, 1937

Dear Rob:

Congratulations on your 70th and on the joy of working  
in your own garden and building your own stone  
wall. How I should love to work with you! Love  
from us all.

Affectionately,

*J. D. Moody*

My dear Speer: Many happy returns of September the  
tenth! No man in the Church has served it more  
faithfully than you, no one in it is more highly es-  
teemed, no one more worthy of the many honors  
bestowed on you. You are known and revered  
throughout a large part of the world. You have  
earned a permanent place in history. May God  
richly bless you in the remaining years which  
may be yours.

Very cordially yours,

Wash., D.C.

Sept. 8, 1937.

*J*

George McLean Cummings.

# FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA

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Telephone CHelseo 3-1897

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Ch. 12  
W. 13

September 17, 1937.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Lakeville, Connecticut

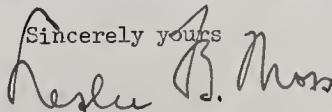
My dear Dr. Speer

Your friends in the missionary work would like to have an opportunity to express something of their affectionate regard for you as the result of the years of fellowship. We have had a committee consisting of Dr. Robbins, as chairman, and Dr. Potter and Dr. Wood as the other members.

Their suggestion is that if we could prevail upon you to come down to New York for some evening perhaps early in November following the close of the Centennial we would like to arrange as informal a party of mission board people as possible. We would like you to come in a play spirit and we would hope that the rest of them might come in the same mood to have a genial, friendly, heart-warming occasion together.

If you would be willing to do this I would appreciate it very much if you let me know your convenience with regard to the matter of dates so that we might go ahead with our plans.

Sincerely yours



Leslie B. Moss

BELLEVUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MINISTER'S STUDY  
45 N. FREMONT STREET  
BELLEVUE, PITTSBURGH, PA.

D9

Dr. J. S. Speer Sept 10

The Hudson family  
will be thinking of  
you with great love  
next Tuesday, Sept 11

Love

Hudson

Mrs. John McDowell

John McDowell

POST CARD

The Farmington Country Club is located on the Jefferson Highway three miles west of Charlottesville and the University of Virginia. The land comprising this estate was patented in 1744 and a major portion of the present building was constructed about 1770.

The unobstructed view of 100 or more miles of the Blue Ridge Mountains is unexcelled.

Eighteen sporty scenic golf holes.

birthday

Sincerely

J. B. Lane

\$

D9

3201 Seminary St

Richard

ONE  
CENT  
STAMP  
HERE

Robert E. Speer

24 Downing Park

New York, N.Y.

\$

Affectionate Greetings  
and Congratulations

September 10, 1937

219  
I

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SHERIDAN BOULEVARD AND SOUTH STREET  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Sept. 13, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer,

This is a note to say how very much I regret not being able to be at the dinner which is to be given in your honor on September 20th. My first Board trip east this winter will have to wait until the November meeting. However, I wish you to know that my personal esteem will join with that of the others present as the Board members gather to offer you their affection and respect.

We showed the Centennial film to a joint meeting of the Lincoln Presbyterian Churches last evening. Let me say that I think you did an exceptionally good job in the selection of your material, and its presentation. We were so happy to see you and to hear your faithful testimony once again.

Very cordially yours,

*Pauc. Johnston*

PCJ  
W

Scene on Herring River, near Hotel Belmont,  
West Harwich by the Sea, Cape Cod, Mass.

Bass River, Mass, Sept. 8, 1897

Dear Robert:

Your only friend on  
the Princeton Board of  
Trustees wishes you a  
Happy Birthday; then  
many years of happy and  
fruitful work binding  
books and writing books;  
then brighter joys and  
more enduring fellow-  
ships. Hope to see you  
soon in Princeton.

POST CARD

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

248

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Lakeville,  
Connecticut.



W. Wetlock Johnson

E. D. WEST CO., SOUTH YARMOUTH, CAPE COD, MASS.

"MADE ONLY BY CURTIS BROS. CO., INC., CHICAGO, U.S.A."

504 PENN STREET

HUNTINGDON, PENNSYLVANIA

My dear Rob:- D19

The letter you sent me in regard to the publishing of the life of George Bowen of Bombay, came to me at Lake Mohawk, New York, where I was convalescing from a severe sickness. I was limited to writing one letter a day, and am just seeing the end of my mail that piled up on me. I felt so disheartened that I could not respond to your appeal to help in publishing the book, but cir.

Scene on Herzing River, near Hotel Belmont,  
West Harwich by the Sea, Cape Cod, Mass.

Bass River, Mass, Sept. 8, 1897

Dear Robert:

Your only friend on  
the Princeton Board of  
Trustees wishes you a  
Happy Birthday; then  
many years of happy and  
fruitful work binding  
books and writing books,  
then brighter joys and  
more enduring fellow-  
ships. Hope to see you  
soon in Princeton.

W. Wetlock Johnson

POST CARD

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

AS

Dr. Robert E. Spear,  
Lakeville,  
Connecticut.



E. D. WEST CO., SOUTH YARMOUTH, CAPE COD, MASS.

"C. T. AMSCOFFER," MADE ONLY AT CURTIS BROS. CO., CHICAGO, U.S.A.

circumstances over which I had no control  
prevented. Last Friday evening, Eva  
Smartley (who is staying with me at  
present) and I spent the evening with  
Aunt Kate Blair. I told her of my  
difficulties in not being able to help you with  
the expense of publishing the book and  
she greatly relieved my mind by telling  
me you had secured the necessary  
amount. I am hoping if you ever  
have to appeal to me again, I can comply  
to your request.

Last evening we had the Century of  
Mission film shown in our church



to a good-sized and appreciative audience.

Tom Bailey made the introductory remarks and I wish you could have heard them.

Aunt Kate told me of seeing your picture in the New York Times last week and also the account of your birthday celebration with your daughter Margaret and son William at home with you.

This has been a hard letter for me to write, but I know you understand my feelings.

With love to Emma and you.

Affectionately,

September 13, 1837.

Anna Fisher.

My James

Apr. 18, 37

# MISSIONARY BOARD TO HONOR DR. SPEER

Dinner Monday Will Mark the  
70th Birthday of Secretary  
Retiring After 46 Years

## CORNERS TO BE BLESSED

Bishop Walsh to Officiate at  
Ceremonies for Two Buildings  
at Darlington, N. J., Sept. 26

By RACHEL K. M'DOWELL

Dr. Robert E. Speer will be honored Monday evening at a dinner at Schrafft's, 220 West Fifty-seventh Street, by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in observance of his seventieth birthday. Dr. Speer, who has served his board as a secretary for forty-six years, is retiring. His birthday was on Sept. 10.

Presiding at the dinner will be the Rev. Dr. Charles R. Erdman, president of the missions board. The speakers will be James M. Speers, vice president of the board; Dr. Joseph L. Dodds, a brother of the president of Princeton University, who succeeds Dr. Speer in charge of work in India; the Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Brown, the Rev. Dr. George T. Scott, the Rev. Dr. William P. Schell and Miss Gertrude Schultz. All but Mr. Speers are board secretaries.



Dig

Dear Dr. Speer -  
On your  
seventieth birth day I  
would like to know  
of the many to read  
you writings. My  
writings should be  
in the form of  
the ones given for  
the usefulness in  
operation you have

My James

Apr. 18. 37

# MISSIONARY BOARD TO HONOR DR. SPEER

Dinner Monday Will Mark the  
70th Birthday of Secretary  
Retiring After 46 Years

## CORNERS TO BE BLESSED

Bishop Walsh to Officiate at  
Ceremonies for Two Buildings  
at Darlington, N. J., Sept. 26

By RACHEL K. M'DOWELL

Dr. Robert E. Speer will be honored Monday evening at a dinner at Schrafft's, 220 West Fifty-seventh Street, by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in observance of his seventieth birthday. Dr. Speer, who has served his board as a secretary for forty-six years, is retiring. His birthday was on Sept. 10. Presiding at the dinner will be the Rev. Dr. Charles R. Erdman, president of the missions board. The speakers will be James M. Speers, vice president of the board; Dr. Joseph L. Dodds, a brother of the president of Princeton University, who succeeds Dr. Speer in charge of work in India; the Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Brown, the Rev. Dr. George T. Scott, the Rev. Dr. William P. Schell and Miss Gertrude Schultz. All but Mr. Speers are board secretaries.

been to me every time  
I have heard you  
teach, preach or speak  
since that first time  
at Northfield at the  
turn of the century.

Since during all  
this time you have  
stood steadily at the  
top of the group who  
came to turn our  
thoughts Godward and  
our actions un-  
ward, I think this  
is a fitting time to

tell you. I'd like you to know  
I am one more whom who  
have helped during the years.  
There must be a great crowd  
to join in this thanksgiving  
song for you and your useful-  
ness.

Now that you are freed from  
details of Board, machinery  
& repair for the large un-  
subsidized that will be yours  
in devoting yourself to the  
things that really count.

May the years after these  
be more and true to riches  
and more satisfying even  
than the preceding.

With every good wish for  
the coming day.

Very sincerely yours,  
Emma Fisher Ogg

104 South Elm Street  
Birmingham, U. S.

WALTER WHALLON, D. D.,  
MINISTER  
30 ROSEVILLE AVENUE

OFFICE OF  
THE ROSEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROSEVILLE AND SUSSEX AVENUES  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

MARY CAMPBELL VEDDER  
ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER

TELEPHONE HUMBOLDT 3-3361

September 16, 1937

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Lakeville, Conn.

A7

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am writing to convey to you the expression of gratitude of the Session of The Roseville Presbyterian Church, speaking for the people of our Church, for the wonderful service you have rendered to the Presbyterian Church, and to the Church of Christ in all the world through more than forty years. We did not write to you on your birthday, September tenth. However, at a meeting of our Session we earnestly desired to record our inexpressible appreciation of the life service you have rendered. Only our Lord and Master fully knows all that you have done.

The Foreign Mission participation of our Presbyterian Church is in large measure what it is because of your unselfish and consecrated devotion. We desire to add this word of tribute at this time when you leave the active service of our Board of Foreign Missions.

We assure you that it is our earnest hope and desire that God will grant you health and abundant strength for many years to come, that you may continue the great leadership of the Church that God has given into your hands. You have a place in our Church and in the hearts of our people that can be filled by no one else.

Looking forward with pleasure to meeting you at the meeting of the Board next Monday, I remain

Very cordially yours,

Walter L. Whallon H

He has a commanding presence, good appearance and a fine voice. He was known throughout his city and the state, as well as in other parts of the nation, as an able and accomplished preacher and lecturer. S. PARKES CADMAN, Pastor Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

ENDORSED BY

SENATOR S. D. FESS  
COL. GEORGE W. BAIN  
EX-GOVERNOR JAMES M. COX  
THE LATE M. G. BRUMBAUGH  
EX-GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA

REV. ROSS F. WICKS, D. D.

Lecturer

36 KEARNY STREET  
NEWARK, N. J.

LECTURES

BACKBONE  
LOOKING FOR A MAN  
KINGSHIP OF KINDNESS  
HITCH YOUR WAGON TO A STAR  
THE ROYALTY OF TRUE GREATNESS  
WILLIAM MCKINLEY—SOLDIER,  
STATESMAN AND CHRISTIAN  
THE TRAFALGAR SQUARES IN LIFE'S  
BATTLE  
THE GOLDEN AGE  
LINCOLN  
THE HISTORY OF ACHIEVEMENT

*The Reverend  
Director*

NEWARK, N. J.

*Sept 8,*

193

*Robert E. Speer:*

*Congratulations*

*Many Happy Returns  
of.*

*Sept 10<sup>th</sup>*

*Cordially,*

*Ross F. Wicks*

Received at

NU145 12 NL=NEWYORK NY SEP 9

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

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WE PRAISE GOD FOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS MAY HE GRANT YOU NE  
BLESSINGS=

ASSOCIATED CHINA COLLEGES.

.733A.

Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church in the  
United States of America

INCORPORATED APRIL 24, 1923 BY  
ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

September 10, 1937.

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Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Building.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am reminded that this is the happy anniversary of your birth and that at the same time it marks the seventieth milepost of your most fruitful life. On this occasion may I congratulate you not only upon the significance of the anniversary itself, but for a life so devotedly given to the noblest work God gives man to do.

I cannot but confess a touch of sadness, in a most personal and intimate way, in the thought that this also marks the beginning of less frequent trips to this building where your very presence has given to some of us younger folk a sense of security in judgment and direction. I will miss you greatly, not because I will miss frequent meetings with you for that I have not had the privilege of doing in as great a degree as I should like, but more importantly I will miss the touch of advice and approval that you have given to so much of our missionary work through your wisdom and word of direction backed as it is with so many years of experience and christian living.

However, I wish you many happy returns of the day and even more fuller expression of your life for the interest of missions through your continued contact and service. May I also ask you to carry to Mrs. Speer, and for yourself, the kind wishes of our family in which Mrs. Wonacott so heartily joins.

Yours sincerely,

*Chas. T. Wonacott*

Time shown in the date line on telegram and day received  
Received at

CARLETON, CAN.  
NW129 47 DL=MS NEWYORK NY SEP 10 145P

DR ROBERT E SPEER=LA=

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THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE BOARD OF NATIONAL  
MISSIONS SENDS YOU ITS MOST AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS ON  
YOUR BIRTHDAY STOP WE REJOICE IN THE SERVICE WHICH YOU  
HAVE RENDERED AND PRAY FOR YOUR CONTINUED HEALTH AND  
STRENGTH FOR MANY MORE YEARS OF SERVICE IN OUR COMMON  
CAUSE STOP=

H N MORSE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

219P.





